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STARTING TOMORROW On Target, the NEW Fantasy League game - PRIZES EVERY WEEK

Appointments may involve lay people

## Judges will face fiercer scrutiny

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JUDGES will face increased public scrutiny over their politics and interests as the Government's human rights legislation begins to bite, according to the Lord Chancellor.

Lord Irvine of Lairg has admitted that such scrutiny of the background of judicial candidates is inevitable when the Human Rights Act takes effect in 2000.

He also says that he may consult over the setting up of a Judicial Appointments Commission involving lay people in the appointment of judges. But he vigorously defends the present merit-based appointments system. Greater public scrutiny of judges' backgrounds would not lead to an American-style supreme court with judges chosen to represent a particular interest group, race or gender.

Lord Irvine's remarks, made in an interview with *The Times*, came at a time when the law lords, the most senior court in the land, are already under scrutiny over their interests and private affiliations. Tomorrow lawyers for General Augusto Pinochet launch an unprecedented challenge to the law lords' recent ruling that the former Chilean dictator has no immunity from prosecution.

They seek to have the ruling set aside because Lord Hoffmann, one of the three law lords making up the majority against the general, failed to disclose links to a charity connected with Amnesty International.

national, the human rights organisation. Lord Irvine would not comment on Lord Hoffmann. However, he said that media comment "about judges' political and social values as they interpret controversial decisions" was bound to increase.

"I will always hold fast to the proposition that this is a merit-based appointments system. I don't want gender balance, or political balance as an objective," he said, adding: "It would be highly desirable if it happened in the context of a merit-based system."

Judges had always been involved in controversial rulings, he said. "What are half the judicial review decisions but politically controversial decisions? What are the *Pearce* and *Dun* cases, school closures, hospital closures, but politically contentious?"

He did not believe that the Human Rights Act, which will see judges involved in a wider range of social policy decisions, would make "that much qualitative difference".

Lord Irvine also, for the first time, publicly defended the recent appointment of Lord Hoffmann of Woodborough and Lord Millett to the law lords, in the face of criticism that the appointments shifted to the right the political make-up of the court.

The appointments are made officially by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister but he takes the advice of the Lord Chancellor.

There has been comment that the two men replaced more liberal law lords. Lord Hoffmann has been described as "deeply conservative" and both are commercial lawyers at a time when human rights issues are coming to the fore.

Lord Irvine said there was an "excessive tendency" to typecast judges. It was "nonsense" to say people's backgrounds determined how they behaved as judges. That had been proved with presidential appointments to the US Supreme Court, where judges had not acted as expected.

Lord Irvine went on to indicate that the law lords might retain a role in a reformed House of Lords. They had a valuable role to play, he said, exercising with "considerable self-restraint" their right to take part in political debate.

Lord Irvine's own reforms of the legal system, contained in a *Access to Justice* Bill, have their second reading today. He predicted there would be opposition to certain reforms but attacked those judges who claim that his proposals are unconstitutional.

Under the plans, senior judges lose their right of veto over any rule change affecting the profession or on advocacy rights. Instead, the Lord Chancellor, subject to parliamentary approval, will have the final say. But Lord Irvine made clear he would use this power only as a last resort.

Leading article, page 19



Chelsea Clinton escorted by Israeli border police officers in Jerusalem yesterday, when President Clinton met Binyamin Netanyahu. Page 10

## Rich escape funding new pensions

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government signalled yesterday that it has ruled out cutting tax relief for the rich to pay for its radical pension reforms being unveiled tomorrow.

There had been fears that high-income earners might lose part of the 40 per cent tax relief on their pension contributions to subsidise new second pensions for the less well-off.

But Alistair Darling, the Social Security Secretary, yesterday indicated that the plans contained in his pensions Green Paper were affordable without squeezing the rich.

Asked on BBC's *On the Record* if the Government was tempted to cut relief for higher-rate taxpayers, he said: "I think you will find there are other ways of achieving the end that I want."

The idea of restricting tax relief on pension contributions had been consid-

ered by the Treasury, but was ruled out amid fears that it would be regarded as a back-door tax hike.

Mr Darling said that the Green Paper would be the most radical reform of pensions for 25 years.

"It will set us in good stead for the next 30 years, because what we will do is provide security for those on low incomes and, at the same time, ensure that people who can save both have the opportunity to do so and do actually increase the amount they are saving."

He said that without change, a third of those now at work would be forced to live on benefits when they retired.

At the heart of his proposals is the desire to get the eight million people who do not contribute to a pension to start saving. While those earning more than £30,000 tend to have company or occupational pensions, those on lower incomes often cannot afford to save.

The key will be encouraging these

people to take out a second or "stakeholder" pension to complement the basic state pension.

The Government had considered making the second pension compulsory but has decided to use strong incentives. The Government is also understood to be considering subsidising the new second pensions by partially matching contributions made by savers. Carers and women who take time out of careers to bring up children are also expected to receive Government subsidies to their pensions.

Holdings of the second pensions will be expected to contribute not more than ten per cent of their salaries.

Mr Darling said that the Government had considered compulsion. But he said that some people were so badly off that even if they contributed all their salary, it would not be enough. There will be a means-tested minimum income guarantee for the poorest.

Tony Blair yesterday backed the proposals, telling GMTV's *Sunday Programme* that people needed to be warned about the possibility of poverty in old age.

He said: "The huge challenge we face is that if we don't reform our pension system, people simply won't be saving enough for their retirement and won't have enough to live on, unless they are dependent on state benefits in their retirement."

Quentin Davies, the Tory pensions spokesman, criticised suggestions that the self-employed might still be forced to take out a stakeholder pension. "That will reduce the cash-flow available to people who are often struggling to build up their own businesses," he said on GMTV.

Sieve Webb, for the Liberal Democrats, said: "It must tackle the millions who are too poor to save, and not just those on middle incomes."

## Hunger strike ends for animal protester

By DIANA BLAMIER

BARRY HORNE, the animal rights firebomb, gave up his hunger strike yesterday after 68 days.

Horne, 46, was last night being moved from Full Sutton Prison to a hospital in York after requesting medical attention. He had returned to prison from York District Hospital after refusing treatment.

The former dustman is serv-

ing an 18 year sentence for a firebombing campaign and was on hunger strike to demand a Royal Commission into the use of animals in experiments. Yesterday he was studying documents relating to the Government's position on animal experiments.

A spokesman for Animals Betrayed Coalition said last night: "Barry has finished going through papers today and resumed his living will."

Horne had ordered that he would not be kept alive if he slipped into a coma. A close friend, Annette Tibbles, added: "I feel Barry has come off the hunger strike because the Government has proved it would allow him to die."

A prison spokesman said: "He is in a stable condition." Horne was yesterday criticised by pressure group *Advocates for Animals* for allegedly drinking fruit juice and tea.

Letters, page 19

## Blair calls for 'sense of balance' over Europe

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR today fights back from a bruising fortnight over Europe by calling for a new maturity in Britain's relations with its continental partners.

Writing in *The Times*, the Prime Minister pleads for a "sense of balance" in the debate over Europe's future and insists that his readiness to work with the EU will produce the type of Europe Britain wants.

Although Mr Blair said yesterday that Margaret Thatcher was right to stand up for Britain's interests, he uses the article to reject any comparisons and insist that he does not share her anti-European attitude.

despite his call for a constructive approach to Europe, he still makes clear that he will use the veto to block any "foolish" proposals from Brussels.

His plea for restraint comes after a difficult EU summit in

Vienna in which Britain's partners insisted that its £2 billion budget rebate be put on the table. It also comes after two weeks during which Europe's politicians sparked fears that long term plans for tax harmonisation are in the pipeline.

Mr Blair also delivers a fresh gibe at the press for its "bizarre" coverage of tax harmonisation issue. The casualty has been any sense of balance in the debate," he says. "A lot of the stories were simply untrue. The idea that there is some grand EU design to bump up taxes is just false."

In an interview yesterday with GMTV's *Sunday Programme*, Mr Blair said: "Margaret Thatcher was quite right when she stood firm for Britain's interest." But he said that he "profoundly disagreed" with her politics and added: "You don't have to stand firm by being anti the whole notion. The extent of Mr Blair's task

in persuading the British people about the benefits of a single currency were made clear yesterday when a survey revealed ignorance.

The poll of 1,000 people by BBC's *Money Programme* showed that just over half did not know the name of the Euro even though it technically comes into being in just 20 days time. A survey of 15,000 people conducted by Talk Radio also indicated that 86 per cent wanted the pound.

William Hague faced fresh Tory divisions over Europe. Writing in *The Observer*, Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, implicitly criticised party spokesmen for fueling "hysteria" over harmonised taxes across Europe. He said the debate had "degenerated into farce" and insisted that a "massive raft of Euro-taxes" were not about to hit Britain.

The real story, page 18



## Rail ban hits commuters

Thousands of commuters throughout the Southeast face widespread delays today because of industrial action on trains in the region.

An overtime and rest-day working ban by conductors working for Connex South Eastern is likely to lead to cancelled trains. A union spokesman said the action would last for five days or longer.

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Canon Giles: "Speak gently in the ears of the users"

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A CANON of St Paul's cathedral has written a "liturgy for the blessing of a mobile phone" and published it on the Internet.

Canon Gordon Giles, 31, the new successor and junior cardinal at St Paul's, has written the service because he says mobile phones are a reality of life which must be faced up to.

"Whatever gadget we purchase, employ, give away or acquire for Christmas, it needs to be blessed," he says in the introduction to the service, published on his personal home page on the Web. Canon Giles, a Cambridge graduate, wrote the

service when he was a curate in Cambridge and acquired a mobile phone.

While a satirical liturgy, which clearly lacks the gravitas of standard church fare, it is intended to illustrate a more serious point represented by advance of new technologies in modern life. The service opens with: "We have come together in the presence of God, to ask God's succour and support in the management, use and care of this mobile telephonic apparatus."

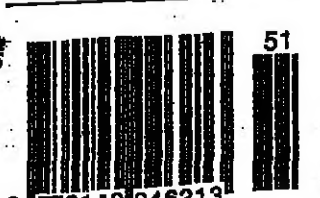
God's blessing is asked on the phone. "Heavenly father, in your great mercy you have given us this phone for the good use and benefit of all people. Bless it and all its users in your service. Speak gently

in the ears of those who employ it, turn all their words to prayers in your ears and connect them with us, and you, and the Holy Spirit."

It ends with a declaration that the user has "pledged his allegiance" to modern culture and a request that no interference should cast asunder that which technology has joined together.

Canon Giles, one of two cardinals at St Paul's, said that he had not used the liturgy himself. "It is not an authorised piece of liturgy and it does not appear in the *Alternative Service Book*," he said. "As to whether others might have used it, I could not comment." His home page is: <http://homepages.enterprise.net/gig/>

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# Blair set to mediate over Drumcree

TONY BLAIR has begun an urgent effort to resolve the deadlock over the Orange Order's banned Drumcree parade amid fears that the protest will spiral violently out of control over Christmas.

He has invited the Orangemen and representatives of Portadown's nationalist Garvaghy Road residents to new "proximity talks" on Wednesday — just three days before thousands of loyalists stage the first of several demonstrations to support the Order's right to complete its

Prime Minister hopes to end march deadlock before violence erupts again, writes Martin Fletcher

July 5 parade from Drumcree parish church.

Neither the Orangemen nor the residents have shown any willingness to compromise, and many loyalists see the Christmas and New Year holidays as their last chance to get down the road. The authorities intend to move several hundred soldiers and police officers into Portadown before Saturday's march.

The blocking of the parade

in July sparked a week of Province-wide mayhem that ended only after three young brothers died in a loyalist arson attack on their Ballymoney home.

Orangemen have maintained a presence at the church ever since, several hundred supporters are once again gathering there each night, and there have been periodic outbreaks of violence during which several police-

men have been injured and one killed.

Fresh loyalist unrest would merely compound the problems David Trimble faces as he seeks to rescue the Good Friday accord after a week abroad collecting international peace awards. The First Minister yesterday insisted that he would not allow "a handful of unreconstructed militarists to derail this process", but fellow Unionists said

the IRA's rejection of decommissioning on Friday night had greatly complicated his task.

Unionists were further discomfited by reports that the IRA had appointed a hard-line member named Brian Keenan to replace Thomas "Slab" Murphy as its chief of staff. Keenan, already a member of the IRA's seven-member army council, organised the 1970s bombing campaign in Britain, served 14

years in prison for terrorist offences, and has publicly opposed decommissioning. Murphy apparently stepped down because of his unsuccessful libel action against *The Sunday Times* this year.

Mr Trimble accused Sinn Féin's leadership of breaching the accord by its failure to deliver disarmament. "The obligations are quite clear and everybody knows what they are

and we know who's falling down on the job. It's Gerry Adams, and the sooner he delivers what he undertook to deliver the better," he told the BBC.

Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness accused Mr Trimble of capitulating to a "full-frontal assault by rejectionist Unionists", determined to renegotiate the accord.

More ominously, Gerry Kelly, a former IRA terrorist who is now an assembly member, claimed Unionists were trying to provoke the IRA into ending its ceasefire.

## Stronger defence team for ex-MI6 officer

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE EDITOR

THE lawyer acting for Richard Tomlinson, the former MI6 officer now living in Switzerland, is seeking a Swiss solicitor to fight any attempt by the Government to extradite the former spy.

John Wadhvani, who also acts for David Shayler, the former MI5 officer currently living in France, said: "I'm looking for a good Swiss lawyer to defend Richard Tomlinson if necessary."

His decision followed confirmation by Scotland Yard to *The Times* that Mr Tomlinson was now facing a new investigation on suspicion of giving information to newspapers which may have breached the Official Secrets Act.

One newspaper story claimed he had confided that a national newspaper editor was in the pay of MI6. This arrangement had allegedly been agreed secretly several years ago.

The highly controversial claim has been dismissed by senior Whitehall sources. They insist that while Mr Tomlinson is clearly party to highly classified information, his allegations have to be viewed as suspect because of his grievance against MI6 for sacking him in 1995.

Mr Wadhvani indicated that, if the Government decided to pursue an extradition case against the former MI6 officer, he might have an alternative to fighting the case in court.

He said he had reshuffled the judgement by the French judge who had rejected the Government's request to extradite Mr Shayler. "It is clear on second reading that the judge ruled that the Official Secrets Act itself was a political act and that anyone charged with breaching it could not be extradited under French law," he said.

He added: "The initial impression given was that the French judge decided that Shayler's actions had been political and were therefore non-extraditable. The new interpretation means that, if the Government goes ahead with an extradition case against Tomlinson, he could hop over the border into France and would be safe from any legal action."

The threat of possible extradition, however, appears to have had a sobering effect on Mr Tomlinson, who spent six months in prison until his release in May, after pleading guilty to breaching the Official Secrets Act. Apprehensive of the prospect of being held in a Swiss jail pending extradition proceedings, he is expected now to keep silent, at least for the foreseeable future.

## Tory think-tank calls for elected Upper House

FRESH evidence emerges today that the Tories are preparing to back a fully elected second chamber as part of a radical overhaul of the party's policy towards House of Lords reform.

The Bow Group, a leading Tory think-tank with close links to Central Office, sets out a detailed blueprint for a democratic Upper House in a report published today.

The move came as the Tories continued to face the fallout from William Hague's dismissal of Viscount Cranborne for secretly negotiating with the Government over Lords reform.

It emerged yesterday that the former Tory leader in the Lords was not acting entirely alone when he held talks with Tony Blair. Sir Alastair Goodlad, the former Tory Chief Whip, helped to arrange the contacts with Downing Street from which a deal emerged to keep 91 hereditary peers in the Lords over the short term.

It was emphasised yesterday that Sir Alastair, who is a longstanding friend of Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, did not necessarily know the full extent of Lord Cranborne's negotiations.

Sir Alastair, who was Tony Blair's "pair" in the Commons for many years, insisted yesterday that he had "acted at all times with the full authority of Mr Hague".

The Bow Group report is the latest in a series of policy papers written by Tory academics and MPs urging the party to think more radically on Lords reform. They believe that by backing an elected chamber, the party can more easily challenge Labour's short-term plans for a fully nominated chamber of life peers while further reforms are considered.

The Bow Group categorically rejects the current Tory posi-

**Bow Group's blueprint urges a form of PR for second chamber, reports James Landale**

tion of refusing to put up plans for full-scale reform until Labour reveals its own proposals. Although the Government is introducing a Bill next month to scrap the voting and sitting rights of hereditary peers, it has not yet unveiled any further reforms. Instead, a royal commission will be set up to consider what sort of second chamber is needed for the 21st century.

The Bow Group document, entitled *Putting Our House in Order*, sets out detailed plans for a fully elected second chamber to fill the policy vacuum created by the Government. The document, written by David Sinclair, a research fellow at the School of Public Policy at University College London, said that the Lords should be independent of government, have popular support and should represent a wide range of interests and groups in society.

The broad aim would be to reduce the involvement of political parties as much as possible. The report recommends that elections should be held under a pure form of proportional representation, such as the open-list single transferable vote (STV), in large multi-member constituencies. This would mean parties would have less control than usual as candidates would be competing as individuals rather than party representatives.

It also recommends that

each candidate receives some state-funded publicity, such as an election address contained in leaflets or even ballot papers. Candidates would be able to stand as so-called interest group affiliates, acting as an official representative for a charity, pressure group, church, trade union or professional body.

Elections would be held — by postal vote to increase turnout — one month after each general election, to avoid the poll being used to express a mid-term protest against the Government.

The proposals are radical and would certainly face criticism for being complex and unwieldy. But they do represent a growing body of opinion among senior Tories that the party should come forward with new proposals. They hope this would help to distance the party from the perceived view that the Tories are simply trying to preserve the hereditary peerage.

Robert Harris, the millionaire author and pro-Labour newspaper columnist, is leading a bid to buy *New Statesman*. He confirmed yesterday that he has been holding exploratory talks with the trustees who run the left-of-centre magazine.

Geoffrey Robinson, the Treasury Minister, who currently owns the magazine, is understood to want to sell. Mr Harris said that two meetings had been held but nothing had been agreed or signed.

The magazine, required reading for the Left, is often critical of the Labour Government. Mr Harris, who is a friend of Mr Blair and Peter Mandelson, denied that the bid was part of a campaign to make the magazine more Blairite. "That would be the absolute kiss of death," he said. "The joy of the *New Statesman* is its independence."



The scene at Villa Park as the emergency services tend to the parachutist. The fall delayed the start of the second half

## Man breaks legs in parachute fall

By WARWICK MANSSELL

A PARACHUTIST dressed as Father Christmas was injured after plunging on to the roof of a stand during an RAF demonstration at a Premiership football match at half time yesterday.

The man, the leader of an RAF display team, hit the parapet of Aston Villa's Trinity Road stand during the team's match with Arsenal, before falling 60ft on to the perimeter track.

St John's ambulance staff and paramedics, aided by Aston Villa's physiotherapist, Jim Walker, placed both the man's legs in splints.

After about 15 minutes, he was carried off on a spinal board wearing an oxygen mask. The man, believed to have carried out more than 6,000 jumps, was taken to the City Hospital, Birmingham,

where his condition was last night described as stable.

Steve Evans, a spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said the man, who has not been named, had broken both legs, with one leg believed to have been "quite badly smashed".

Graham Liggins, the manager of the RAF Sports Parachute Association, which put on the demonstration, said: "The injured man was the lead jumper of the display and had experience of more than 6,000 jumps. He made a slight misjudgment, hit the roof of the stand, then tried to secure himself to the roof."

"He fell off the roof with an unsuspended parachute approximately 60ft and hit the running track that goes around Villa Park."

The incident delayed the start of the match's second half by about 15 minutes.



The parachutist strikes the roof of a Villa Park stand

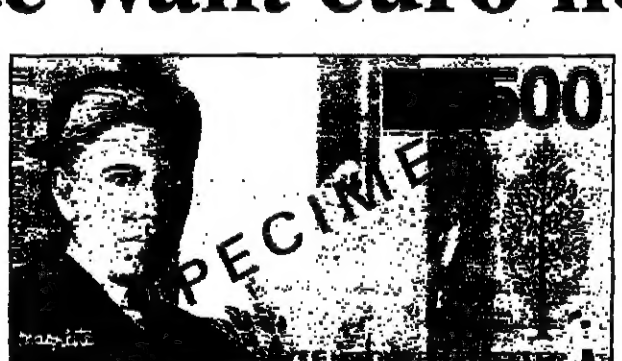
## Police want euro note scrapped

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE and customs experts are urging the European Union not to go ahead with issuing high-denomination euro notes because they will make it easier for criminals to smuggle large amounts of cash around the world.

Police tax and customs experts fear that cash from drugs and organised crime will be changed into the new 500-euro notes.

Investigators say that £1 million in notes would fill two large briefcases because the largest British banknote is £50. The euro will be worth about 70p at today's prices and a 500-euro note would equal



The Belgian 500-franc note will be replaced by the euro

£350, so £1 million converted to euros would fit in a small bag.

The notes are due to be issued in 2002 and some printing work on the currency has

already begun, but, at a secret conference in London three weeks ago, more than 100 representatives from Interpol, the World Customs Organisation and the Council of Europe

called for a halt to the 500-euro note.

The conference, under the aegis of the National Criminal Investigation Service, was organised by the Financial Action Task Force, which represents 26 of the world's richest nations. Formed in 1989 by the G7 economic group, the task force targets money laundering worldwide. Members were there to analyse trends and make forecasts about how money laundering techniques would change.

The call for the cancellation of the 500-euro note will be passed to a full meeting of the task force early next year. If it endorses the demand, it will then be passed to EU ministers for a decision. A spokes-

man for the European Commission in London said there were no plans to stop printing, but it was still possible for the note not to be issued.

The call from the investigators for action is the second time the task force has considered the risks from the new note. Earlier this year Philippe Maystadt, the Belgian Finance Minister and chairman of the task force, acknowledged that there were concerns and said that the European Central Bank, which will run the currency, could restrict circulation of the high-denomination note.

He said that the alternative would be to issue the note but insist that banks register any transactions they considered to be suspicious.

## Commons query on Pinochet 'warning'

By JOANNA BALE  
AND MICHAEL BINYON

MICHAEL Howard is to table questions in Parliament today to establish whether General Augusto Pinochet was warned by the British Embassy in Madrid not to come to Britain.

Embassy officials are said to have advised the Chilean Embassy in Madrid three months ago to warn the general against travelling to London.

However, a Foreign Office spokesman dismissed the report as "nonsense", saying that lengthy inquiries had found no diplomat who knew of any warning.

Mr Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary and former Conservative Home Secretary, said yesterday: "We must get to the bottom of this." Mr

Howard told the BBC that he would have let the general return to Chile, where he could stand trial.

Patrick Robertson, General Pinochet's spokesman, said that the general had received no warning from the Government. "But whether the British Embassy tipped off the Chilean Embassy, we don't know," he said. Mr Robertson also denied that the general had given an interview to a Sunday tabloid through his former Finance Minister, Sergio De Castro, in which he accused the Government of kidnapping him.

General Pinochet's lawyers will go to the House of Lords tomorrow to ask the law lords to reconsider their ruling that he does not enjoy sovereign immunity from arrest.

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# Curtain falls on giant of the small screen

DESPITE a brilliant career of film and television hits, Lord Grade will always be remembered for his famous quip about one of his most spectacular failures.

When the £18 million movie *Raise the Titanic*, the fourth most expensive film ever made, sank without trace, Lord Grade shrugged and said: "It would have been cheaper to lower the Atlantic."

It was a typically robust response from the legendary impresario who brought some of the world's most famous programmes to television, and had far more successes to his credit than failures.

Tributes to Lord Grade, who died from heart failure yesterday morning, aged 91, poured in from leading industry figures.

Sir John Birt, the director-general of the BBC, said Lord Grade, who helped to bring classics such as *The Muppet Show*, *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*, *The Saint* and *Thunderbirds* to the small screen, had been the lifeblood of commercial television. He was also the closest Britain had got to a flamboyant Hollywood film-maker, known for his trademark Monte Cristo cigar.

"He was a life force — a man of great verve and enterprise who helped give ITV its characters and its viewers enormous entertainment and pleasure," said Sir John. Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC,

**Carol Midgley on the career of a man who helped to change the face of television**

governors, added: "Lew was one of the last great entertainers, a man who realised that life and TV should be fun — the most powerful force in TV of his day."

Lord Grade was described by many as being a genius with the common touch who was so enthusiastic about his work that he rarely took holidays and had no hobbies.

His nephew is the equally flamboyant former Channel 4 chief executive, Michael Grade, whom Lord Grade described as "a very rare piece of material" of which he was very proud. Last night Mr Grade said: "Lew was the last of his kind. A man of enormous influence and vigour. He changed the face of entertainment in this country. He was a titan figure who will be very badly missed."

If Lord Grade had an Achilles' heel, it was his film work: the film producer, Lord Putnam said it was a tragedy that he had not entered films earlier. "He came at a point

where his instincts and taste had already been bypassed. That was probably the one serious tragedy of his career and I think he knew it. If he had come 15 years earlier, he could have made a significant impact."

"I've never known and I will never know anyone quite like him. I loved him and that is not an exaggeration. He was ebullient, incredibly generous with his time, and over the years, with his money. He was a great man, always ahead of you."

Fellow film director Mr Winner said he was the "epitome of the word entrepreneur". "He was unique. He was part of the great entrepreneurial group of Jewish entrepreneurs who went to Hollywood, or in his case, stayed in England of course, and ran the show immensely privately and personally."

He added that Lord Grade had totally dominated British television.

"When he formed ATV there was only one independent television company — it was him and the BBC, and they were this rather sort of old-fashioned organisation."

Lord Grade, who would have been 92 on Christmas Day, was born Louis Winogradsky in the Ukrainian village of Tokmak in 1906. His Russian Jewish parents had settled as refugees in London when he was five.

He became a world-class Charleston dancer before setting up his own theatrical agency and later becoming the chairman of ITC Entertainment in 1958.

Through his television company ATV he was behind such programmes as the Midlands soap opera *Crossroads*, *Jesus of Nazareth*, *The Persuaders*, *The Buccaneers* and *Robin Hood*.

Yesterday his secretary and close family friend for 35 years, Marcia Stanton, said: "He had a constant enthusiasm for everything he did. It affected everything he did. It is difficult to convey in words the energy he gave to those who lived and worked with him. He was very positive and generous in what he did conveying a sense of humour about life. Lord Grade would arrive at his London office at 6.30am until he reached the age of 78, when he gave himself an extra hour in bed and came in for 7.30am, his only concession to old age, she said."

He will be buried at Willesden Synagogue in north London on Wednesday.



Shows that aired on British TV thanks to Grade included *The Muppet Show*, *Thunderbirds* and *Crossroads*



First steps: Lew Grade and Anna Roth in 1933

## Government to tell teenagers all they need to know

By JOHN O'LEARY

GUIDELINES on what every teenager needs to know to lead a fulfilling adult life will be drawn up by government advisers tomorrow.

A new section of the National Curriculum, to be known as Preparation for Adult Life, will cover issues such as citizenship, health, environmental concerns, creativity, and spiritual and moral education. Advisers are divided about how much of the programme should be prescribed in detail.

Among the skills to be covered by all state schools will be political and environmental literacy, parenting, basic economics, and risk assessment.

Schools will be required to teach the new curriculum to pupils from the age of five, bringing together the existing range of non-academic instruction and ensuring that concepts such as democracy and cultural development are not neglected. The package will include sex education and drugs education, as well as broader guidance on healthy living.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will meet tomorrow to distil the recommendations of five working groups for a report to ministers in the New Year.

There is likely to be disagreement over proposals to spell out the citizenship curriculum in detail. Professor Bernard Crick, who chaired the citizenship review, is insisting that up to a quarter of a day per week be spent on the subject. The programme would cover complex issues such as propo-

tional representation and European monetary union.

Teachers' unions are pressing for the guidelines to be as flexible as possible to avoid further overloading teachers. David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "We are keen to see a coherent package which brings together things which schools already cover. But it would be wrong to make the non-academic curriculum prescriptive when the trend has been to free up time so that schools can be left to exercise some professional judgment."

Nigel de Gruchy, of the National Association of School Masters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "The Government must not try to please ev-

eryone with something they want taught. Most schools appreciate the need to teach these subjects but if something like citizenship is going to be added to the curriculum, its supporters should say what is going to go to accommodate it."

Several well-known figures have been involved in drawing up the programme, which will form part of the review of the National Curriculum to be implemented in 2000. Sir Simon Rattle, Lenny Henry and Dawn French were in the group on creativity. Sir Geoffrey Holland, Vice-Chancellor of Exeter University and former Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education and Employment, chaired the one on sustainable development.

### HOW TO LEAD A FULLER LIFE

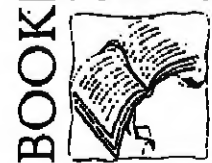
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BOOK TOKENS



THE GIFT OF READING



# Health warning on DIY kits for genetic testing

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

DO-IT-YOURSELF genetic testing kits, could soon be used by unscrupulous private companies to exploit public fear of disease, a leading think-tank warns today.

Allowing companies to provide such tests over the counter, by mail order or over the Internet could fuel public anxiety unnecessarily, unless the market for them is properly regulated, a report published by the Institute for Public Policy Research says.

Only a handful of genetic tests have so far been devised and their availability on the open market is limited. Diseases which it is possible to screen for include cancer, some heart conditions and cystic fibrosis.

But Jo Lenaghan, author of the report, *Brave New NHS*, believes that DIY genetic testing kits for these conditions, and others, will soon be as easily obtainable as pregnancy tests, which can be bought in most chemist shops for less than £10. "New genes are be-

ing discovered at the rate of one a day. It is only a matter of time before tests are devised that link them to certain conditions," she said.

Genetic testing does have enormous beneficial potential because it allows people to act before an illness develops. If you know that you are at risk of diabetes or asthma, for example, there are dietary and lifestyle choices you can make to reduce the seriousness of the illness or to ensure that you do not develop it at all.

It is equally helpful for families, at risk of having a child with a life-threatening hereditary illness such as cystic fibrosis, to know what are the chances that their baby will have the condition and what they can do about it.

In Britain, genetic testing services are provided principally by the NHS, but access to them is patchy and can depend on where you live. Ms Lenaghan believes it is only a matter of time before private

companies step in to exploit the gaps in NHS coverage. As this happens and as public demand for genetic testing increases, more and better regulation will be needed, she said.

A genetic test does not currently require a licence as it does not count as a medicine and, although the Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing, a government body, requires companies selling such tests to submit them for prior approval, it has no statutory powers and its guidelines are not enforceable.

Ms Lenaghan also says it is important for people using the tests to obtain proper counselling "so that they know how to interpret the information provided".

She said genetic testing is not as simple "as, say, a pregnancy test, which offers a clear diagnosis and tells a woman that she is either pregnant or not. Genetic diagnosis are not so simple and incomplete knowledge may be more confusing than ignorance."

Ms Lenaghan is concerned that the companies marketing genetic tests are fuelling public anxiety and she is worried about the private sector's willingness and ability to protect patient confidentiality, not just for the person tested but also for their relatives. And whether genetic test results should be disclosed to health insurers needs to be debated, she says.

The report will be launched today by Hugh Bayley, MP, and Parliamentary Private Secretary to Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary. It calls for a national co-ordinated strategy for the development of genetic testing and new laws to regulate the commercial provision of genetic tests. It goes on to suggest that the advisory committee should become a statutory body with regulatory functions and wants kitemarks to be developed for accredited private sector providers of the genetic tests.

The report also calls for training for doctors to help them better understand, interpret and explain data.

## Tests can cost up to £1,500

BY OUR SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A COMPANY in the United States is using the Internet to offer tests for two genes linked to breast cancer and to ovarian cancer — BRCA1 and BRCA2 — for a price of between £240 and £1,500.

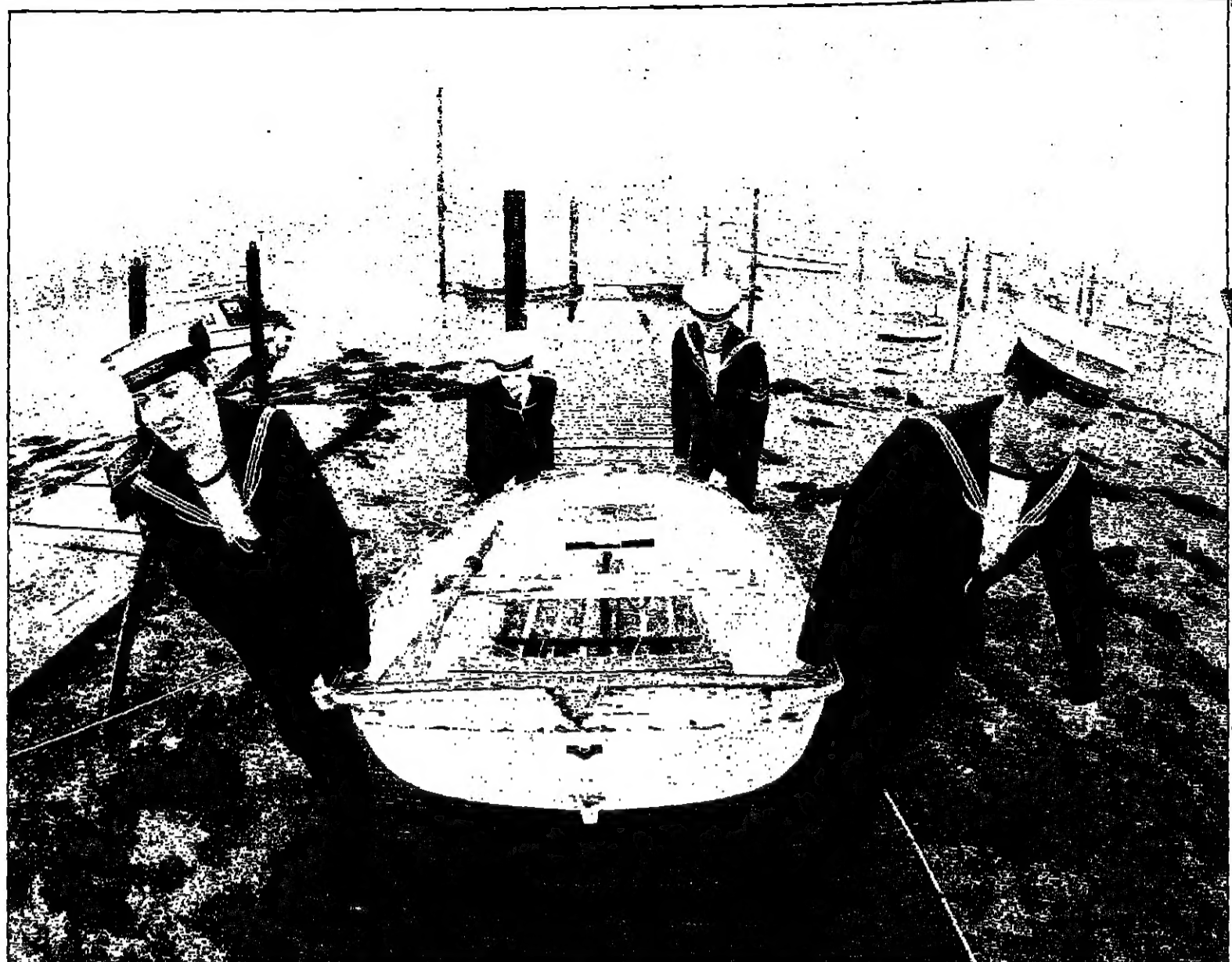
Myriad Genetics, based in Salt Lake City, Utah, also provides tests for genes indicating a predisposition to ovarian cancer and heart disease. The analysis is done on a sample of blood sent to the companies' laboratories.

A London-based company, University Diagnostics, has adapted for use in the home a genetic test that identifies carriers of cystic fibrosis. The carrier test, which costs £95, is designed to assess a couple's chance of having a child with

the condition. The Cystic Fibrosis Trust often refers to University Diagnostics people who are unable to have the test through the NHS.

A mouthwash is used to collect cells from a patient's mouth. The user spits the mouthwash into a test-tube and sends this to the University Diagnostics laboratory for analysis. The results are either sent directly to the customer or to the GP.

The development of such commercial genetic tests can be seen within the context of a general trend towards over-the-counter medicines and self-testing. Boots has reported a sharp increase in demand for home-testing products in the past 12 months.



Gosport Sea Cadets with one of their craft. The 12,000-strong corps now has only part-use of a charity vessel for offshore training

## Safety changes leave Sea Cadets aground

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE future of the 12,000-strong Sea Cadet Corps, which has been a disaster for us. For our crucial offshore training we rely on the fleet tenders and now all we have is part-use of a vessel lent by a marine charity.

For coastal sailing, the corps has a square-rigged training ship, *The Royalist*, which can take 24 cadets, one 35ft yacht and a few dinghies. The 40ft tenders, which look like trawlers and are about 25 years old, have been scrapped because of new regulations on seafaring standards and child protection legislation.

The old vessels were not built with compartmentalised sections and, if holed, might have sunk rapidly. New tenders would cost £2 million each and the Sea Cadet Corps has insufficient funds, even though it is 50 per cent fi-

nanced by the Navy. The corps, whose members are aged 12 to 18, go back in their present form to the Crimean War, when returning sailors set up Naval Lads Brigades for orphans in the backstreets of ports.

Uniforms were introduced when Queen Victoria donated £10 to the Windsor unit to buy sailors' outfits. The Sea Cadet Corps was formed in the 1890s and the Admiralty began sponsorship in 1914. Girls were integrated in 1992.

Commodore Parker said: "Part of the reason for the offshore training in the navy tenders was to make sure that Britain's great maritime heritage continued. Young people are tough seafaring skills. Of course the new safety regulations make sense but there are no replacement vessels."



History of the Sea Cadets dates back to the Crimean War

## Vanbrugh's forgotten mansion to rise at last

BY PAUL WILKINSON

SIR John Vanbrugh, the architect of Blenheim Palace and many other great British stately homes, may be long gone but one of his designs could become reality more than 270 years after his death in 1726.

An English landowner wants to build himself a new house based on a Vanbrugh drawing of a Baroque-style turreted mansion that was never translated into stone and mortar. Neville Howard, a Yorkshire businessman, has had plans drawn up from an illustration found in a collection of Vanbrugh's work in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

His chosen site in open countryside near the North Yorkshire village of Tunstall is not far from one of Vanbrugh's greatest creations, Castle Howard, setting for the television series *Brideshead Revisited*. Mr Howard's project is for a more modest residence developed from Vanbrugh's floorplan and drawing of a front elevation of what the V&A catalogue describes as "a small house, unidentified".

It says the building has "wood brickwork, sharply cut like cake" and a roofline "abnormally gay, with little towers, urns and obelisks, a statue on a pedestal and a massive central feature of arched chimneys stacks".

It adds: "Much of the plan is

devoted to corridors and lobbies and a spacious hall with niches for statuary, one corridor quite pointless except as an excuse for more vaulting."

Michael Snowdon, the V&A's head of designs collection, said: "Vanbrugh was always jotting down his ideas and sketching things out to see how they looked. It is drawn on the back of a sketch for Eastbury Park in Dorset which was over a floorplan of Blenheim. Our collection is filled with this sort of thing.

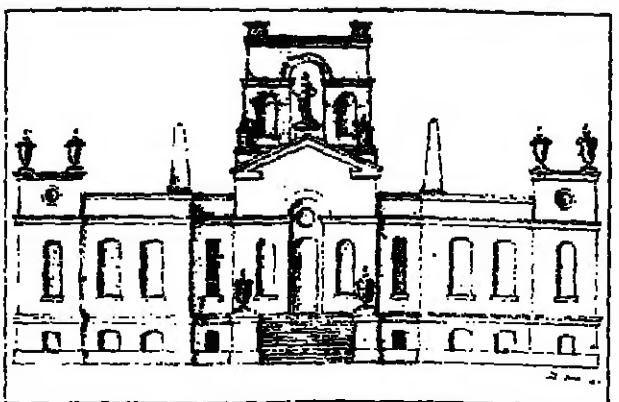
"It was probably never a specific commission, but more a drawing together of all the features he liked to include in a house. This was not a permanent residence, it was probably a lodge to be tucked away

in the corner of a nobleman's park. Somewhere where he could entertain his guests during a hunting party.

"It will be a very exciting project to see an original design of this great architect come to life today."

Mr Howard was declining to discuss his project until Richmondshire District Council decides on his planning application. But its dimensions on the drawing are given as 82ft x 41ft x 46ft high. It will have extensive gardens, and a four-acre copse to screen the house. The cost is likely to run well into six figures.

However, it makes one concession to the 20th century — the plans include concealed vehicle access to the basement.



Drawing from the V&A that failed to see the light of day



A painting of the twin-masted ships, each 195ft long

## £5m ships for young sailors

BY SIMON DE BRUCELLES

TWO new sailing ships will give young sailors of the future a taste of what life at sea was like in the 19th century. The twin ships, the first to be built in Britain for at least a decade, have been commissioned by the Sailing Training Association at a cost of £10 million.

They are to replace two ageing schooners, *Sir Winston Churchill* and *Malcolm Miller*, which have introduced more than 60,000 young people to sailing over the past 30 years.

The identical twin-masted ships, 195ft long, will carry 45 trainees, a permanent crew of six and 11 volunteer crew members. The contract for the first of the ships, paid for with the help of £3.5 million from the National Lottery, will be signed today. It is to be built

at the Appledore shipyard in north Devon, and will be ready for the millennium celebrations.

Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, president of the Sailing Training Association, said yesterday: "The new ships will have more berths, better facilities and lower operating costs than our two current ships. They will make a significant contribution to the development of our work over the next 25 to 30 years."

A berth on the ships is open to anyone aged between 16 and 25. Part or all of the cost of the £700, 12-day course is usually paid through sponsorship and fundraising.

Sir Robin said that many of those who took part had never set foot on a boat. "You can see trainees learning self-reliance and gaining confidence by the day," he said.

## Princess's butler will not quit her charity

BY CLAUDIA JOSEPH

PAUL BURRELL, the former butler to Diana, Princess of Wales, refused yesterday to resign from her memorial fund after the trustees gave him an ultimatum to leave or be made redundant.

Mr Burrell, whom the Princess described as her "rock", said that he would be back at work today at the charity, which was set up in her memory in London's County Hall. "I am still employed by the fund and I shall be back at my desk as usual," he said.

Mr Burrell, 40, who keeps a picture of the Princess on his office desk, was given the ultimatum last Tuesday during a meeting with Anthony Julius, the fund's solicitor, and Lady Sarah McCorquodale, chairwoman of the charity's trustees. He is now waiting to find out when he will lose his £35,000-a-year job as events and fundraising manager, to which he was appointed in February. He has not worked for the charity long enough to qualify for redundancy.

Yesterday Andrew Purkis, the new chairman of the memorial fund, said: "Paul Burrell remains employed by the fund as a highly valued member of staff. There is no question that he has been sacked."

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# Four partygoers feared dead as boat capsizes

Boyfriend of ex-Labour leader's daughter may be sole survivor of Scottish island tragedy, writes Joanna Bale

THE boyfriend of the youngest daughter of the late Labour leader John Smith is believed to be the sole survivor of a boating tragedy off the island of Iona yesterday in which four other men are thought to have died.

Gordon Grant, the long-time partner of Catherine Smith, managed to swim ashore and stagger two miles to a guesthouse after a motorised dinghy carrying him and his friends capsized just after 4am on Sunday. They had been returning home to Iona across the half-mile wide Sound of Iona from a Christmas dance on the island of Mull when the accident happened.

Mr Grant, 25, known locally as Pal, raised the alarm at the Sea View Guest House, the home of John and Tanya Nodding. Mrs Nodding said: "Pal arrived at the door about 4am."

"He was soaking wet and hardly knew where he was, and obviously very shaken and upset. He was really very shocked and disoriented."

Mr Nodding, a member of the Coastguard, called the emergency services and within minutes the entire community around the Ross of Mull and Iona was alerted to the accident and were out searching the shores and sea.

A major land, sea and air search for the men, involving a Royal Navy helicopter, lifeboats and coastguard teams, found one body washed up on the shoreline, but last night there was still no trace of the other three.

The dead man was David Kirkpatrick, 23, a fisherman, and the missing have been named as Logie MacFadyen, 34, a farm worker, Bob Hay, 23, a tour boat crewman, and Ally Dougall, 19, a fisherman, all from Iona.

The five friends had been to a Christmas ceilidh at the Argyll Arms Hotel, Bunessan, four miles from Fionnphort, where their boat had been



Catherine Smith: at hospital bedside

moored. Mr Grant's father, also Gordon, runs a store and Iona's only bar, Miss Smith, 24, who is a postgraduate law student at Strathclyde University after taking her degree at Glasgow University, was believed to be at her boyfriend's hospital bedside in Oban last night.

Mr Kirkpatrick had just bought a vegetarian guesthouse, Iona Cottage, on the island. His father runs the tourist trips to the island of Staffa, assisted by Mr Hay. David Kirkpatrick and Mr Dougall were also crewmates on the Kirkpatrick family's prawn trawler.

It was Mr Kirkpatrick's great-uncle's wooden dinghy that capsized after reportedly being hit by a freak wave while making the crossing.

The operation was led by the Mull Coastguard Sector Manager, Steve Monks, 49, who said all the men were experienced boatmen. Mr Monks said: "Ideally, the boat was probably a bit small for five people, but it would be an exaggeration to say it was overloaded."

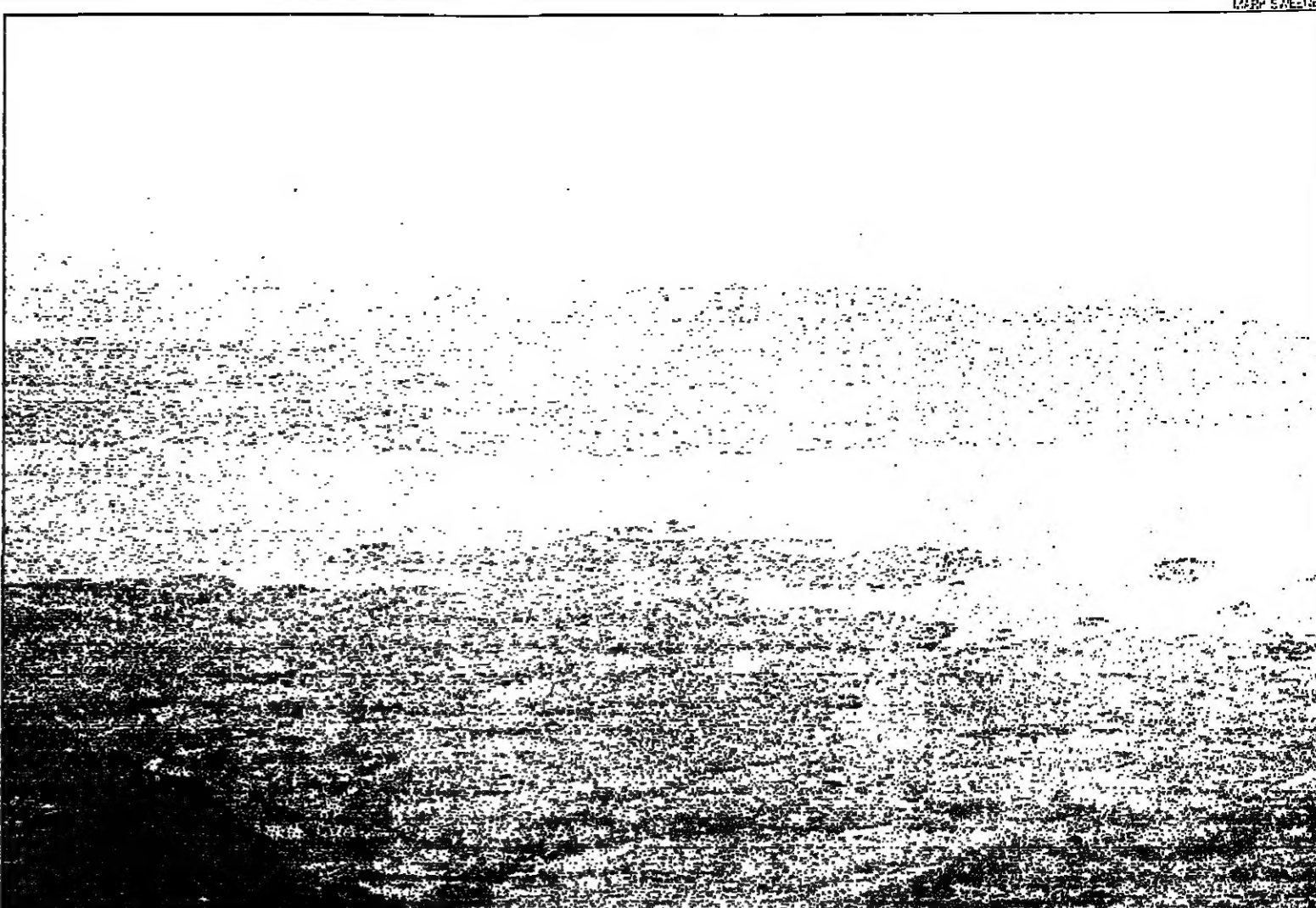
"I understand the lads had been for a night out, but the drinking was kept at a social level. There was certainly no suggestion that anyone had drunk too much."

"Unfortunately it's usually the case that, as time goes on

in this kind of operation, hope starts to fade, but there's still a lot to do before we call it a day." Iona has a population of 80, augmented in the summer months by visitors attracted to its abbey and its links with Christian history. The former Labour leader is buried on the island.

It has been suffering a decline in the numbers of young men and residents fear that it will never recover from yesterday's tragedy. Annabel MacInnes, a resident, said: "A whole generation has been wiped out."

The chairwoman of Iona Community Council, Evelyn MacPhail, 74, said: "This is by far the worst tragedy to have hit the island in the 50 years I have lived here."



The island of Iona is half a mile from Mull: the crossing can be treacherous even for experienced boaters such as the victims of the accident



The hotel where the five friends had been to a ceilidh

## Sculpture of hope ruined by graffiti

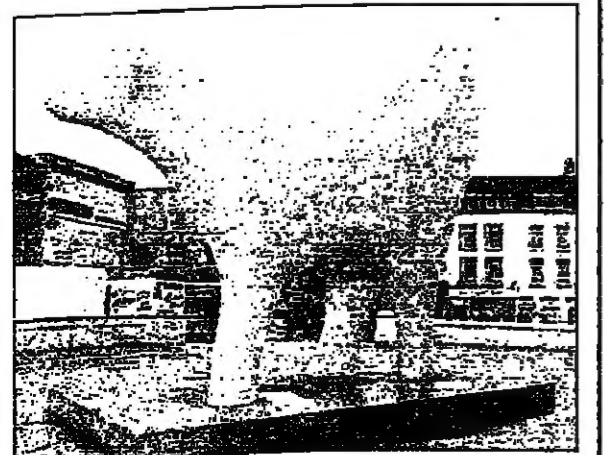
BY RUSSELL JENKINS

SUPERLAMBANANA was said by its Japanese artist to embody the potential and optimism of Liverpool when it was unveiled in May. The director of the Tate Gallery called the 15-ton half lamb, half banana sculpture a prayer for the city's future. Seven months later the figure, which has been moved from near the Pier Head to Williamson Square, has become a symbol of inner city decay.

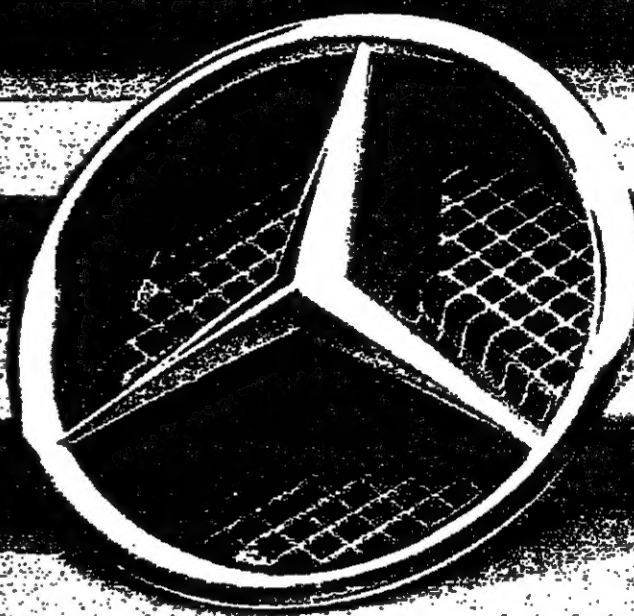
Vandals have covered it with graffiti. Names and slogans have been scrawled across its tail and legs in black marker pen. The gra-

ffiti upset Olive Davies, 66, who lives near by: "It is an absolute disgrace and proves these people have no respect for anything."

SuperLambBanana is positioned in a Liverpool City Council Gold Zone, where cleaning up graffiti is a priority. But it is feared that high pressure water jets used by the council could damage the structure's concrete surface. Tony Siebenthaler, of the Liverpool Architecture and Design Trust, said: "They haven't got the right equipment so we are working out how to clean it before it makes its next move in the new year."



Vandals have scrawled all over SuperLambBanana



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### Carol Midgley on a service to protect celebrity images in advertising

However, Dead Famous, which has launched this week, is offering to act as an arbitration service between advertisers and the family of deceased stars to ensure that their images are used tastefully and that advertisers do not suffer a public relations backlash. They

**TOP OF THE DEAL**

## D FAMOUS TREE

"But the other side of the coin is that, if a person's relatives are angry and distressed about their image being ma-



"Dead Famous will guide agencies through the sensitive minefield of negotiation, lia-

ing with different copyright owners to obtain the necessary footage and authority and, in some cases, the permission of the deceased's estate to feature or adapt an image."

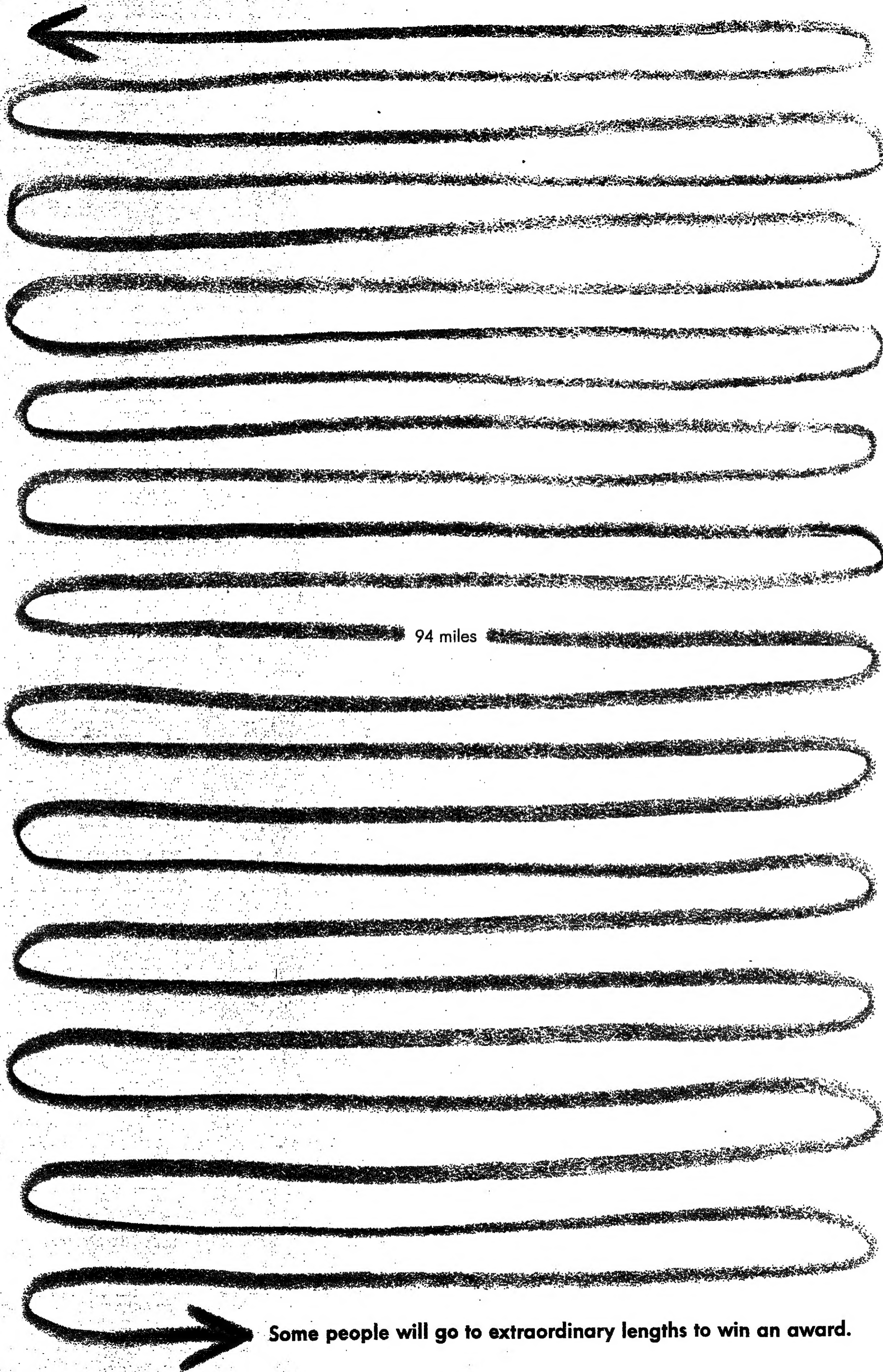
In the United States, the law protects celebrities after their

A spokeswoman for Dead Famous added: "In Germany a car manufacturer used James Dean in its marketing, more or less implying that, if Dean had been driving one of their cars, he would have survived his fatal crash. Things like that can cause a lot of of-

Philip Circus, chairman of the Advertising Law Group, said that there was no law protecting celebrities at the moment, but that courts were moving to a position where they might establish a right, in common law, of privacy. "Although there are rarely any purely legal constraints on using dead celebrities, there are important public relations implications. Public sensitivities are such that, in some cases there may be resentment."

## admits it st of time





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\*Total average consumption according to directive 93/116 EC.



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# Detained youths cost taxpayer £75,000 a head

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE 2,500 youths aged 15 to 17 currently in custody have cost the taxpayer almost £200 million in policing, insurance, detention and social services bills — an average of £75,000 each.

A study of the costs of offending published today found that fathers had been mostly absent from the lives of a majority of the young offenders, and those youths who had been in children's homes claimed that this had deepened and accelerated their involvement in crime.

Helen Edwards, the chief executive of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, who is a co-author of the report, said: "The message from this report is that early intervention with families means fewer crimes, fewer victims and less work for the courts and prisons."

"A great deal of youth crime has its roots in severe family and educational problems.

Many opportunities to tackle the causes of crime early on are missed, leaving the criminal justice system to pick up the pieces as best it can."

The report estimates that each burglary costs an average of £919 in damage and property loss, and each car theft £500. Police incurred a further cost of £150 per crime investigated. The report found that violent crimes cost on average £6,000 for minor wounding, £20,000 for serious wounding and £75,000 for very serious wounding. The figures include medical and compensation costs.

Prosecution and other costs are estimated to be £3,700 per conviction. This includes police identification costs of £1,200 per offender and £2,500 for a successful prosecution. The cost of detaining a young offender ranges from £1,250 to £2,167 per month.

For offenders taken in to care before being convicted

there is an additional £4,000 for care proceedings. Local authority residential care costs an average £500 a week, foster care between £100 and £500, and residence in a local authority secure unit at between £1,800 and £3,450 a week. The overall sum includes an estimated £7,000 a year for special education.

The report, *Wasted Lives*, is based on detailed interviews with 45 young offenders. Most had a history of involvement with social services and 28 per cent had been in children's homes. Twenty nine of the youths came from a family where another member had been active in crime.

A record 74 inmates have killed themselves in jail in England and Wales this year, prison service figures show. Almost half had a history of psychiatric illness. The number of suicides as a proportion of the overall jail population of 66,000 remained stable.

## Ireland's farmers branch out into fir trees

SHEEP and cattle are being displaced from Irish farms to make way for Christmas trees as Ireland tries to rival Scandinavia as the main supplier of bushy, non-shedding trees to Britain and continental Europe.

Thousands of acres of Irish land are now under the Noble Fir, the most expensive Christmas tree, which will sell for up to £80 in Central London. Large swaths of countryside in Wicklow, Carlow and Kilkenny are now covered in the trees, creating a rural scene more reminiscent of Scandinavia than the postcard image of Ireland.

Originally from the Pacific North West of the United States, the Noble Fir is the perfect Christmas tree shape, strongly scented and, most importantly, does not shed its needles. A 3ft tree sells in Britain for about £20, more than twice the price of a Norway Spruce. Noble Firs more than 10ft tall can sell for up to £80.

The tree is virtually impos-



Robert Barrett, a Noble Fir grower in Co Wicklow, sizes up a Christmas tree for the growing export market

sible to grow in most parts of Britain and the Continent, where it is quickly killed off by frost. But the soil and climate in Ireland are perfectly suited to the tree, which needs good drainage, rich soil and mild weather.

John Sheridan, of the Irish Christmas Tree Growers' Association, said that more farmers were trying to cash in on the new crop as sheep and cattle prices fell. Income

from trees is tax-free, to encourage farmers and investors to replant Irish forests. Where once the country was shrouded in forest, now only 8 per cent is covered by trees.

"I see the trade growing considerably," Mr Sheridan said. "We currently have 160 members and about ten million Christmas trees, but the trade is only in its infancy. The Government is certainly helping to encourage it."

The tree growers are targeting the export market, particularly Britain and Germany, which buy about 30 million Christmas trees each year. At the moment most of the trees bought in Britain and Germany come from Denmark, but the Irish companies are nudging in to corner the upper end of the market.

At Webb's Garden Centre on the outskirts of Birmingham, David Smith, the area

manager, was full of praise for the Noble Fir. "Having a lot of bushy trees stops people arguing over the best tree. One year, I had to separate two blokes fighting over the same tree," he said.

David Hasselbacher, a director of Emerald, which grows 2,000 acres of trees, said: "You can cut them in November, leave them in a relatively cool room and they will still have their needles in March."

## Syringes pose a growing threat to public

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE growing danger to public health from needles and other litter discarded by drug users is highlighted in a survey released today.

In the past three years, 226 people were reported to have been injured by discarded needles, 33 of them under the age of 16. Used needles can transmit serious conditions, including hepatitis and HIV.

The findings of the survey, conducted by the Tidy Britain Group, a charity working for a cleaner environment, are the focus of a conference in York today and tomorrow. Keith Hellawell, the Government's anti-drugs co-ordinator, will speak at the conference, as will representatives of district councils, the Health and Safety Executive and local needle exchange programmes.

Mr Hellawell, a former chief constable, said that almost all local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland had reported problems with drug litter.

"As I go about, I find many parents are concerned about children being injured or infected by needles, which are largely found in parks, playing fields and other public places," he said.

Mr Hellawell said that the increasing number of discarded needles could have been caused in part by needle exchange schemes, which are designed to reduce the spread of HIV and other infectious diseases caused by needle sharing.

"More people are using their own needles, and fresh needles each time, but the negative side is that there are more needles about," he said.

The survey found that parks, playing fields and beaches were the biggest danger areas, and that 132 local authority employees had been injured by discarded needles since 1995. Half of all councils now provide staff with special boxes for used needles and gloves and tongs for picking them up. Less than half, however, provide information to the public about the dangers.

## MoD to pay for work by Russian academic

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Ministry of Defence has awarded a three-year research fellowship, worth an annual £15,000, to a Russian woman with good contacts in political circles in Moscow.

Underlining the continuing rapprochement between the former East-West Cold War enemies, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, decided to ask Irene Isakova, who is a security consultant to the Russian Parliament's Upper House, the Federation Council, to write a thesis on defence diplomacy.

This is part of the Government's new concept for turning the military into "forces for good in the world". Dr Isakova, who is in her mid-thirties, is currently studying at King's College Centre for Defence Studies, in London.

Dr Isakova, who has also studied in the United States, was selected as the outstanding candidate for taking the new policy forward in a research project that will focus on ways of improving relations between Britain and Russia and also with the former Russian republics.

Two other post-doctoral research fellowships awarded by the MoD under the same scheme have also gone to women: Asifa Hussain, from Glasgow University, and Tanya O'Gillivie-White, from the Mounbatten Centre at Southampton University.



Irene Isakova: doing research for the MoD

## Rottweiler nips in to disarm girl

By A CORRESPONDENT

A TEENAGE girl who held up the centre of a Sussex town with a gun late at night was finally disarmed by a dog.

Up to 50 police officers, some armed, tried to calm the 18-year-old girl, who was threatening to kill herself and anyone who came into her path in Peacehaven town centre. After 90 minutes a police rottweiler named Ben went into action and disarmed her with a small nip.

Inspector Mark Powles, of Sussex Police, said: "I think the girl received a very minor bite." He added that it was lucky she was not shot.

"It had the potential, ultimately, of her being shot by

the police. She was armed and pointing the gun at officers."

"It is a very difficult decision for armed officers to make. There was a lot of restraint shown in this incident."

Armed police formed a cordon around the teenager, who has not been named, as she swung the handgun around, pointing it at her head and at members of the public. After being disarmed by the dog, she taken to Edbourne police station.

A spokesman for Sussex Police said that the girl herself had telephoned them, threatening to harm herself and saying that she had a gun.



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# Bee's demise could sting Prescott to act

Nature group urges new laws to protect wildlife, reports Nick Nuttall

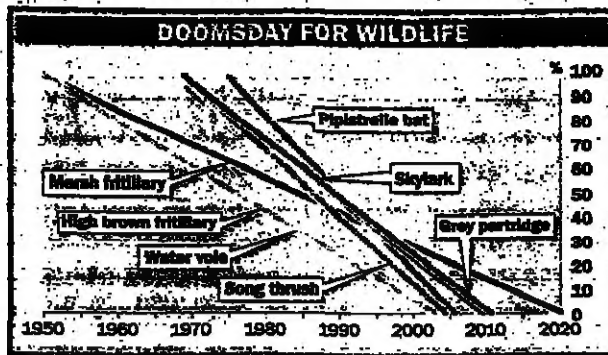
A BRITISH bumble bee has been declared extinct, bringing to 154 the number of animal and plant species that the country has lost during the 20th century.

Wildlife experts say that the short-haired bumble bee, last seen near Dungeness, Kent, has joined the mouse-eared bat, peach-leaved bellflower, Essex emerald moth and other species that have died out in the British Isles.

The World Wide Fund for Nature has calculated that the current rate of extinction in Britain is three species every two years. In a report today the fund says that the rate of extinction could accelerate over the next 20 years because of global warming, increased development and intensive agriculture. It says that well-known species such as the skylark and water vole could share the fate of the short-haired bumble bee.

The fund is urging the public to write to MPs and to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and to demand new laws to protect wildlife. It says that the laws are needed to halt the loss of meadows, woodland, hedges and other habitats which have largely caused the extinctions.

"The dramatic decline and extinction of our native species is a sad reflection of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and its inability to protect our natural heritage. We must have stronger protection, before it is too late," Carol Hutton, of the fund, said.



based on government figures for rates of decline, the skylark will be extinct in Britain in 2009. Its breeding population has fallen 54 per cent in the past 25 years. The song thrush, whose population has fallen 73 per cent in many areas, will die out in 2004 and the grey partridge, whose numbers have halved in the past 25 years, will be gone in 2011 according to the fund. The marsh fritillary could die out in 2020. It has suffered a steep

decline over the past 150 years and has recently disappeared from most of eastern England and Scotland.

Apart from tougher laws and the reform of the common agricultural policy, the fund is pressing for greater restoration of habitats. Britain has only 5 per cent of its original grazing marshland and since the last century 95 per cent of its peatlands has been lost or degraded.

In the past 50 years half of the ancient semi-natural woodland has gone. Between 1947 and 1985, 175,000 kilometres of hedges in England and Wales have been lost. Ancient meadows have suffered a 97 per cent decline since the last war and there has been a similar loss of lowland hay meadows. Fifty per cent of farm ponds have disappeared and there has been a 94 per cent decline of active raised bogs since the start of the 19th century.

The fund forecast that

based on government figures for rates of decline, the skylark will be extinct in Britain in 2009. Its breeding population has fallen 54 per cent in the past 25 years. The song thrush, whose population has fallen 73 per cent in many areas, will die out in 2004 and the grey partridge, whose numbers have halved in the past 25 years, will be gone in 2011 according to the fund. The marsh fritillary could die out in 2020. It has suffered a steep

Nature Notes, page 20



The short-haired bumble bee was last seen on the Kent coast in the 1980s

## Burglars made off with a royal haul

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

BURGLARS stole antique clocks, furniture and silver, worth more than £100,000, after breaking into the country home of Countess Mountbatten of Burma.

At the time, the countess, 74, who is the daughter of Earl Mountbatten of Burma, and her husband, Lord Bra-bourne, were away from their home at Mersham, Kent. The burglars smashed through the front door of the Queen Anne mansion in the early evening and stole items of sentimental value to the couple. Two mahogany side-tables, two clocks, and various items of silver were taken. At least one had belonged to the earl, and the haul included gifts from members of the Royal Family.

The countess said that the burglary, last month, was "very annoying but the sort of thing which seems to happen to everyone these days". She added: "The burglars seem to have been disturbed by one of our staff, and the police arrived very quickly."

MoD to pay for work by Russian academics

## NET LINKS

The official website for the World Wide Fund For Nature, which carried full details of the organisation's work and information on how the public can become involved, is <http://www.wwf.org.uk>

The latest information about the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds can be found at <http://www.rspb.org.uk>

Friends of the Earth, which campaigns to protect the environment, carries up-to-date information about its activities and current work on <http://www.foe.co.uk>

## Lottery holds back pier repair cash

By HELEN JOHNSON

THE National Lottery has been accused of withholding part of a grant promised to help to rescue Britain's only Grade I listed pier, chunks of which are now falling into the sea.

The West Pier at Brighton, left derelict by years of neglect and battering from the sea, was to enter the millennium returned to its former glory, with restaurants, an art gallery, a theatre, mooring for 60 boats and an outdoor auditorium. But in recent days sun-ers have been warned to avoid the area after large chunks of the pier's decking dropped off.

The West Pier Trust, which fears that it is running out of time to make repairs before the pier collapses, has attacked the National Lottery Heritage Fund for not releasing funds promised to them in March.

Built in 1866 by Eugenius Birch, one of the Victorian era's foremost pier designers, it was the first pier in Britain to be built purely for pleasure. It reached the peak of its popularity in Edwardian times, when two million people flocked to Brighton each year.

In 1968 some restoration work was carried out, but in 1972 the sea end was closed to the public because it was dangerous. Five years later the entire pier was shut. It became detached from the shore several years later and the middle section was demolished by the great storm of 1987. The trust has been promised £10 million to help to fund the estimated £34 million cost of restoration, along with additional money from private businesses. It claims that the lottery, which has so far paid only £950,000 towards emergency repairs and £75,000 for development costs, is dragging its heels in paying out more money.

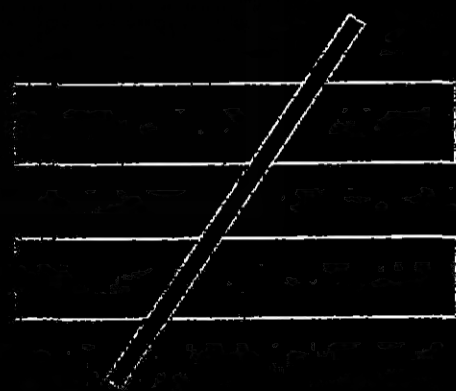
Rachel Clark, a trust spokeswoman, said: "We were warned the particular piece of the pier which has just collapsed was dangerous back in November. But what was more frightening was that it happened in pretty normal weather conditions. We are not talking about storms, high winds or seas here."

She said that the trust was organising an emergency meeting with the lottery fund before Christmas in the hope that some money would be secured for immediate repairs. "We have been asking for the release of funds for emergency repairs for months. There have been a lot of letters exchanged and negotiations, but although the fund has not actually refused us the money, it has for one reason or another not yet forwarded anything to us," she said.

Lottery officials have indicated that they need more information about the restoration scheme before releasing any funds. A lottery spokesman said: "It is too early to say what will happen because we do not know what they are asking for yet."



Chunks of decking have recently fallen off West Pier



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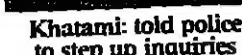


Israeli special forces go into action with teargas and rubber bullets in the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday as confrontations with stone-throwing Palestinians continued during President Clinton's Middle East visit

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

The body of Moham-

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) is also considering a series of "bold measures" that will show that the region's countries can pull themselves out of their economic tailspin in an attempt to restore confidence and bring foreign investment. Under the measures, there would be inducements to foreign investors, including a three-year tax holiday for companies, 100 per cent foreign ownership of firms, greater freedom for foreigners to buy land, duty-free imports of capital goods and greater market



FROM MICHAEL  
THEODOULOU  
IN NICOSIA

Forouhar, and his wife, Parvaneh, were stabbed to death last month.

The Judiciary Committee decided to act for his impeachment. Mr. Clinton is in a weak position. As Golda Meir, then Israeli Prime Minister, observed of Mr. Nixon: "The President was here, but his thoughts were very far away."

The turnaround in US-Palestinian relations since the Gulf War has been shown in Gaza, where thousands of US flags are proudly on display. Today's visit by Mr. Clinton is seen — despite US denials — as tacit support for Palestinian statehood.

—

## Monk 'raped 38 women'

**Varanasi:** A Hindu monk was arrested in this northern town for allegedly raping 38 women over six years after drugging them at his home. **Swami Yageshwaranand Maharaj**, 36, claimed that he had "spiritual powers" to cure barren women. **Dinanath Pandey**, the town's police chief, said, "His luck ran out when a policeman's relative woke up while he was having intercourse. (AFP)

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# Clinton faces close vote on impeachment

PRESIDENT CLINTON denied vigorously yesterday that he was about to resign after the House Judiciary Committee's vote to impeach him.

"I have no intention of resigning," said a grim and tense Mr Clinton, in Jerusalem at the start of a whistle-stop Middle East tour to try to salvage the peace process. "It's never crossed my mind," he insisted, in his first comments since the committee approved four articles of impeachment against him.

But Mr Clinton said he was unwilling to oblige Republicans calls to admit that he committed perjury in sworn statements about his affair with Monica Lewinsky, saying: "I could not admit to doing something that I am quite sure I did not do."

The next five days, dubbed "Bill's Hell Week" in the American press, will determine whether Mr Clinton becomes the first President in the nation's history to be impeached by a vote of the full House of Representatives since Andrew Johnson's impeachment in 1868. Mr Clinton, who called Saturday's vote by the Republi-

## A small band of Republicans will decide fate, says Bronwen Maddox

can-dominated committee "foreordained", called on each member of the House to follow conscience, not party line, in voting on his fate. The debate, which starts on Thursday and could be rushed through to a vote as early as that evening, could leave Mr Clinton facing the prospect of a full trial in the Senate in the new year.

Senators yesterday privately dismissed the remarks of Republican Trent Lott, Senate majority leader, who wants any trial to last no more than a few weeks. The Senate would have the power to cut short the debate, perhaps with a vote of censure, but in almost uncharted waters could find itself embroiled in a full-scale trial until late summer, they said. In a sign of Republican lead-

ers' rising excitement at having revived the threat to the President which seemed buried by the November 3 elections, the House Speaker-elect, Bob Livingston, vowed to block any move by Democrats to censure the President rather than to impeach him.

But Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority, who said yesterday "I believe censure is what we ought to do", insisted: "All the members are going to face a procedural vote on censure, whether or not the Republican leadership files it."

Mr Clinton has come under attack for being out of the country in the critical days ahead of the vote. In his absence, the White House is hoping "to take the fight to the American people", and that public opinion will pull the House back from impeachment.

A poll by Newsweek magazine yesterday showed that 61 per cent thought the Committee did not pay enough attention to what ordinary Americans thought, 33 per cent thought the Republicans were too partisan and 60 per cent opposed impeachment and trial in the Senate.

For the next 72 hours, the nation's focus will turn to the likely votes of two dozen moderate Republicans, whose actions will determine Mr Clinton's fate. The Republican Whip, Tom Delay, yesterday called the outcome "too close to call", believing there was a "50-50 chance for impeachment". The Judiciary Committee chairman, Henry Hyde, yesterday urged Mr Clinton to be heroic and resign.

Leading article, page 19



Republicans Tom DeLay, left, and Bob Livingston, say that impeachment, rather than censure, is on the cards

<http://www.house.gov/judiciary/tcreport.htm>  
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour>  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov>



Fireworks light up the night sky over Paradise Island in the Bahamas at the end of opening festivities for the Royal Towers of Atlantis hotel

## Paradise serves up star treatment

Paradise Island: The grand opening of a new hotel in the Bahamas brought the rich and famous to its doors (Adam Fresco writes). A glittering firework display lit up the night sky above the \$300 million Royal Towers of Atlantis hotel on Paradise Island. Although the full cost of the party was a closely guarded secret, it is thought to be in the region of £5 mil-

lion. The cost for the lighting alone was £2 million. The celebrities at the opening, including Quincy Jones and Michael Jackson, performed free as guests of the owner, Sol Kerzner. Celebrities included Leonardo DiCaprio and Julia Roberts. They usually charge up to £500,000 to turn up to an event like this. Among other guests was Baywatch star Yasmine Bleeth.



Michael Jackson sings for celebrities gathered for the grand opening



Yasmine Bleeth, a star of Baywatch, arrives for the hotel festivities

## Life at the top casts shadow over UN

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Secretary-General and New York's most powerful property tycoon have locked horns in a most undiplomatic tussle over who is allowed to have the biggest building.

Kofi Annan, the UN chief,

has spoken out publicly against a plan by Donald Trump to build the world's tallest residential building overlooking the UN's landmark headquarters on the East Side of Manhattan.

In an apt symbol of the changing world, Mr Trump's 72-storey skyscraper — standing as high as the observation

deck of the Empire State Building — would dwarf the UN's 39-storeys. Fresh from negotiating with such strongmen as President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and the Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, Mr Annan has now trained his sights on the macho mogul, Mr Trump.

"I don't know how he ever

got permission for it," the diplomat told a conference at New York University. "I think it's going to throw a colossal number of people into the deep shadows."

Standing squarely behind Mr Annan are the celebrity residents of two exclusive apartment complexes next to the UN grounds. Such famous

names as Walter Cronkite, the revered American newscaster, and William Donaldson, co-founder of Wall Street's Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, are said to be ready to fund a lawsuit against Mr Trump, who insists that the proposed Trump World Tower is in fact a compliment to the popularity of the UN.

## Hillary banishes Christmas party for press to tent on White House lawn

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BILL and Hillary Clinton will not be shaking hands and having their photographs taken with the White House press corps this Christmas. Nor will they be playing host to them in the state rooms that Mrs Clinton has richly festooned with Christmas decorations.

Instead, members of the Fourth Estate have been banished to a tent in the garden. At least it will be heated.

In what many reporters see as revenge for their relentless reporting of the Monica Lewinsky affair and other alleged presidential peccadilloes, the Clintons have cut back on their annual Christmas parties for the press.

There will now be one gathering next Monday called a "Winter Holiday Festival". Guests are no longer required to

dress up and the invitations say "Casual attire". This has resulted in worried calls to the White House social secretary for guidance. Acceptable dress for men will be open-neck shirts, blazers or sports jackets.

### 'Clintons spent their time rooted to the spot'

ets and khaki trousers but, please, no jeans. "Women will know what to wear," a spokeswoman said.

White House press parties began in the Kennedy era as small, elegant gatherings where reporters and spouses hobnobbed

with Jack and Jackie. They grew into gargantuan affairs, thronged by hangers-on seldom if ever seen in the White House press room. The Reagans introduced the idea of guests being photographed with the First Couple, creating mementoes that now adorn prominent positions in many Washington homes. By last Christmas this ritual had become an onerous chore for the Clintons, who spent most of their own party rooted to the spot.

Aides confided that Mrs Clinton was indignant about the hospitality extended to those she considers her husband's foes. So this year sees a break with tradition. The one-party will run for four hours. Children will be welcome and games laid on for them. The Clintons are expected to drop by.

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Extract from "World's most respected companies," Financial Times 30th November 1998.

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## European vision shrinks as Schröder turns his back on East

The Hofburg Palace, pinnacle of Vienna's architectural grandeur, is designed for the running of a Central European empire which no longer exists. It is difficult not to feel sadness in the city of the Habsburgs, for it is the symbol of a multinational, multi-cultural idea that failed long before Archduke Franz Ferdinand was shot at Sarajevo.

The questions prompted by the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian empire could be applied to the European Union as it enters one of its most nervous phases. How safe, how involved can the peripheral countries feel if the hub

### INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

of the Union is so brittle, so unsure of itself? What happens to the legitimacy of the centre if cash ceases to flow to the outer frontiers of the em-

pire? Union? When does it all begin to crack up?

The Eastern candidates for the European Union are right to worry about such things. They seem to be losing their main champion within the European Union, Germany. The Polish and Czech papers tell the story: Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, presenting his plan for Europe to parliament, made enlargement of the Union a mere footnote to a lengthy passage about how Germany was going to fight its cut its European Union budget contribution.

Helmuth Kohl, for all his bluster and broken promises,

saw himself as the advocate of Central Europe. But Herr Schröder has made plain that he does not, nor does he recognise any moral responsibility towards the East. Everybody east of the Oder and Neisse rivers senses it: the tone has changed, grown colder.

Target dates for Central European entry have been dropped from political discourse. Joseph Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, whose parents were born in Hungary — said it would be "unserious" to set a date. Some German politicians say not before the year 2005.

It is easy to understand

Herr Schröder. Herr Kohl had cooked a vast broth of contradictory pledges to extend eastwards by the year 2000, to cut Germany's budget contribution, to keep to the Maastricht criteria for European monetary union, to spend more money on the East and to create two million new jobs. By the end of the century he wanted a bigger, happier Europe for less money.

It was never feasible but neither the Social Democrats in Opposition, nor Herr Kohl's European partners could summon the strength to tell the Chancellor that he was living in never-never

land. Now it falls to the new Chancellor to set priorities. The Vienna summit showed that he has still not managed to achieve this: the only clear signal is that eastward enlargement has fallen to the bottom of the list.

Herr Kohl was willing to live with contradictory European policies in the knowledge that Europe often only moved forward as a reaction to multiple crises. He was the master of late-night summit calisthenics.

Herr Schröder, who has a gambling streak, reckons that he will be able to carry off something similar at the March summit in Brussels.

But, unlike Herr Kohl, the new Chancellor has no deep sensitivity about the future shape of Europe, its obligations and its necessary balance. He lacks his predecessor's historical awareness.

And that is the point about enlargement. The central question is whether the European Union can really call itself European as long as it does not include the Poles, the Czechs and the Hungarians.

A Russian succession crisis and a big Serbian offensive in Kosovo are the two predictable European dramas of 1999. Both demand stability

in Central and Eastern Europe if the West is to be spared the worst.

So, give the entry candidates a perspective. Make clear to first-rounders that entry conditions are not going to become ever more stringent. Reassure second-rounders that enlargement will not stumble to a close as soon as the privileged six are inside the EU.

A German Chancellor who plans to rule from Berlin must know that his country is not only on the eastern fringe of the European Union, but also in the centre of the cultural continent — and he should act accordingly.

## Germany to turn up heat on funding

GERMANY will throw down a fresh challenge over European funding and taxes today when it announces plans for its turn in the EU presidency, only two days after Tony Blair and the other leaders shovelled their problems aside at a summit in Vienna.

In no mood to yield in its demands for billions of pounds back from the EU budget, Gerhard Schröder's Government, which takes the EU reins next month, is determined to complete a mammoth finance package, including action on the British rebate, by April.

The leaders, who enacted a phoney budget war in Vienna, will face German heat to achieve more towards "co-ordinating" taxes and economic policies by the end of the six-month presidency in June.

Setting employment as his top priority, Herr Schröder is also determined to hammer out a jobs pact that was only sketched by the leaders at their lacklustre summit.

Leaving Vienna, Jacques Pösch, Luxembourg's Foreign Minister, forecast "a night of the long knives" when Germany tries to broker a finance

### Bonn adopts Thatcher role, writes Charles Bremner in Vienna

deal that will require sacrifices all round at a special Brussels summit in March.

Herr Schröder struck a nationalist pose in Vienna, making clear he was set for a Thatcher-style battle to stop German money being "squandered" by Brussels. He said Germany was "tired of being ripped off" in the arrangement in which it pays 18 billion a year into EU coffers.

"Everyone must be ready to give something to arrive at an overall compromise," he said, with an eye to Britain's rebate, among other sore points.

Despite his firm language, Herr Schröder was deemed to have made only a modest impact at his first EU summit. His was a hard act, given the towering presence in EU affairs of Herr Kohl, his prede-

cessor, who turned up to receive honorary EU citizenship. The EU's leaders, from Tony Blair to José María Aznar of Spain, and Jacques Chirac of France, all claimed advances for their demands at Vienna. Mr Blair won a communiqué statement that "co-operation in tax policy is not aimed at uniform tax rates". He was also relieved that there was no real discussion of Britain's £2.1 billion rebate.

Señor Aznar declared "mission accomplished" after persuading the others to drop a communiqué reference to freezing the EU budget — a move, backed by Britain, Germany and France that would cut the EU cash flow to Madrid and the other Southern states.

The French claimed they had set the EU on the path to "social harmonisation" while resisting attempts to rob them of their hefty take from the common agricultural policy. Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, said he had won backing for a scheme to set a minimum wage throughout the EU.

For many EU officials, the pre-Christmas gathering was a "virtual summit", a which the tough issues were evaded in favour of an excursion into the vote-catching field of "saving" the duty-free trade.

"It was an issue-free summit," said one continental ambassador, who mused over the gulf between the national demands and the rhetoric of socialist solidarity from the left-wing leaders who now dominate EU governments.

Striking a British note, Mr Blair said the trick was to combine British needs with those of Europe. "In my view the lesson from this summit... is that we safeguard our own national interest, but part of that national interest is being positive and constructive in Europe," he said.

Tony Blair, Peter Riddell and William Rees-Mogg, page 18



Gerhard Schröder in Vienna on Saturday. He said Germany was "tired of being ripped off" by the EU

### A Christmas Message

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to all our friends who have generously supported our Hospice during 1998. Your donations have helped to bring care, comfort and support to many patients and their families again this year. May we wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

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## THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

### Perfect bridge for disaster relief

By RICHARD BEESTON

HALF a century after a British inventor designed a revolutionary bridge to open the way for the Allied advance on Germany, the modern successor to the Bailey bridge is enjoying a comeback in some of the most remote corners of the world.

From battle-scarred Bosnia and Angola to the hurricane-swept areas of Central America, the portable, durable and easy-to-assemble bridges can often make the difference between success or failure for entire regions.

In November, Hurricane Mitch triggered one of the deadliest and most devastating natural disasters in Central American history, when driving rains and fierce winds caused mudslides and flooding that killed several thousand people, destroyed crops and washed away roads and bridges. After initial relief supplies of food and medicine arrived from abroad to meet emergency needs, the authorities in Honduras identified the rebuilding of the lost 98 road bridges as one of its priorities.

From its headquarters near Reading, Mabey and Johnson, one of Britain's leading bridge-builders, was uniquely qualified to help and, within hours of the disaster, had its representatives assessing the damage and drawing up plans to repair or replace scores of lost bridges across the region.

The Compact Rapid Reaction Bridge System is perfect for disaster relief since it can be manufactured, shipped and assembled in a matter of weeks for any size from 15 to 60 yards in a single span. The company is offering its expertise free and a bridge at cost

price, if readers of The Times raise the money to buy a new bridge in this year's Christmas appeal, co-ordinated by Oxfam.

A basic bridge costs £20,000 and the appeal has raised about £7,000 so far.

Leading article, page 19



The Mabey Website address is: <http://www.mabey.com/>



Mareva Galanier from Tahiti is crowned Miss France by her predecessor, Sophie Thalman, in Nancy over the weekend. Eric Morley, the organiser of the Miss World contest, does not regard Tahiti as part of France.

## Miss World contest turns ugly as France picks Tahitian belle

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE has provoked a row in the hideously volatile and complex diplomacy of the Miss World competition by electing a Tahitian beauty as Miss France, even though the British organiser does not regard Tahiti as part of France.

The organiser of the Miss France competition has said that, unless Mareva Galanier is accepted as the French national candidate and allowed to wear the tricolour sash, France will boycott the Miss World competition next November.

Eric Morley, the organiser of Miss World, maintains that the Pacific island of Tahiti and other overseas French territories are independent entities for the purposes of beauty competitions.

"We're going to see what happens with old man Morley," said Geneviève de Fontenay, president of the French Miss World Committee, after Mlle Galanier

"If Morley refuses, we will boycott the event"

was elected in the eastern city of Nancy. "We have our policy... Morley must accept the girl who wears the French sash. If he refuses, there will be a row and we will boycott the contest."

The dispute between the Miss World organisers and the Miss France officials occurs every time France elects a candidate from its overseas regions, which it does with some regularity: Miss Tahiti in 1991, Miss Guadeloupe in 1993, and Miss Tahiti again earlier this year.

In July, Mr Morley declined to accept the Tahitian candidate, Hianano Teatonga, to the fury of Mme Fontenay and the confusion of Mlle Teatonga: "If I am not French, what am I?" she asked.

France has always maintained that its overseas territories are indissolubly part of the nation whose inhabitants may hold French passports and enter beauty pageants for the greater glory of la Patrie.

## Serbs block Kosovo inquiry into massacres

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

POLICE in Kosovo have obstructed the work of Finnish forensic experts attempting to investigate an Albanian mass grave, as diplomats point to a Pinochet syndrome among a Yugoslav regime that is uncomfortable with war crimes inquiries too close to home.

President Milosevic keeps his distance from the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, and last month his Government denied a visa to the tribunal's chief prosecutor, Louise Arbour, who wished to visit Kosovo.

The independent Finnish team, however, had already been granted permission to work in the province, as long as it looked at both Serb and Albanian mass graves.

Now the Finns have complained that the Yugoslavs are reneging on their promises of allowing unrestricted access to the sites, after an incident last week in which the Serb police insisted on surrounding a convey of Jeeps carrying, among others, the Finnish ambassador for human rights, Timo Lehtinen, with armoured personnel carriers.

The door of Mr Lehtinen's Jeep was later wrenched open by a Serb policeman in civilian clothes, who snatched the ambassador's camera. The Finns were trying to reach the village of Gornje Obrinje, where the massacre of at least 16 Albanians sparked the international outcry that nearly produced Nato airstrikes on Serbia in October.

The Yugoslav state news agency, Tanjug, has claimed that the police feared for the safety of Serbian pathologists accompanying the Finns in territory controlled by the Kosovo Liberation Army. Lt Pristina: Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, met the head of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian negotiating team yesterday to discuss prospects for solving the province's conflict through negotiations. After meeting Fehmi Agani, Mr Ashdown, who first visited the province in September, said it was now "in slightly better circumstances than before". (AP)

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# Why are we so scared



Skirt, £195, jumper, £230, by Tanla, from Browns (0171-491 7833); bag, £205, Anya Hindmarch (0171-638 9177); shoes, £199, by Emma Hope (0171-259 9566)



Camel beaded-trim cashmere cardigan, £390, and peach beaded skirt, £570, both by Elspeth Gibson, 7 Port Street, SW1 (0171-235 0801); fake mink throw, £245, by Helena Berman, from Liberty (0171-734 1234); gold and green beaded bolster, £35, available from branches of Monsoon nationwide (0171-313 3000)



Crew-neck, £69, by John Smedley, Fenwick (0171-629 9161); trousers, £329, by Sara Berman, from Harrods (0171-730 1234); shawl, £150, by Anne Arlendis (0171-235 5253); pink Indian slippers, £25, from The General Trading Company, 144 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-730 0411)

**Lisa Armstrong**

FASHION EDITOR

Come on, toss out the taffeta. All you need is a well thought-out wardrobe to cover all possibilities when you have to look glamorous

Some women are born to dress up. They enter the world with fully formed credit cards and a 'homing instinct' that leads directly to John Galiano. These are the women who go shopping for Puffa jackets and return with a beaded halterneck. They would never be caught wearing short clothes when everyone else is in long, or looking basic-fashion stark when old-fashioned sparkle is the order of the night. They would not dream of wearing flat shoes after 6pm, however fashionable, because they worked out years ago that glamour calls for heels. And they would never make the mistake, as I once did, of spending days tracking down a fabulous skirt, then squandering it by wearing it with a plain white shirt to a sit-down dinner.

I do not know how they instinctively avoid all these mistakes. But they do. The rest of us will have to learn the rules by rote.

By the rest of us, I mean that vast group of British women who, frankly, struggle with the whole concept of dressing up. Perhaps it's a throwback to Puritanism, or some misplaced sense of austerity or frugality. Either way, the result is that while we have worked our way round the kind of unspoken daytime rules that make combat trousers great at weekends and less brilliant for an interview with a merchant bank, we are as lambs to the slaughter faced with those two dreaded words, Black Tie.

One of the difficulties is that while Black Tie is a literal command for most men, it requires lateral thought for women — and it's the lateral bit that drives everyone mad. Add to all this the quaint British habit of regarding overdressing as a cardinal social sin and you have a recipe for disaster. No wonder so many British women resort to that old standby, the ancient, hideous taffeta puff — the logic being that it doesn't matter how awful it looks provided that it also looks sufficiently out of date for everyone to realise that absolutely no effort was made. At the last three black-tie events I've been to, every style option has been on show, from Cher in her navel-gazing period to early Diana, which would be fine if everyone felt happy dressed as though they were attending separate parties at different ends of the car-

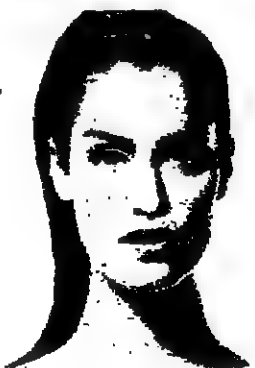


Throw, £50, cushions, £20, Marks & Spencer (0171-935 4422) picture frame; small, £205, large, £350, Paul Smith at Erickson Berman (as before); lamp, £35.75, Graham & Green (as before)



Above centre: purple velvet embroidered kitten heels, £120, bag, £73, and scarf, £68, all by Jacksons, 5 All Saints Road, W11 (0171-792 8336). Above right: gold bows, large, £25, and small, £10, by Marks & Spencer (0171-935 4422); silver colour beaded bells, small £4.95, large, £18, at The General Trading Company, 144 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-730 0411); velvet lavender bags with beaded trim, £33.95, at Graham & Green (as before)

GIVENCHY



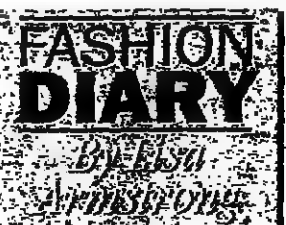
## Dreamy confections for those little angels

THE under-sevens have problems dressing for more formal occasions, too. While their mothers tend to picture them in something handsomely or charmingly low-key — such as a velvet pinafore — the average under-seven invariably has more grandiose visions. Layers of tulle, a maribou boa or three, and a couple of pairs of angel wings are usually a good start.

As the mother of a five-year-old who doesn't think tottering around Sainsbury's in a tiara and train is overdoing it, I can only envy the youngsters' lack of self-consciousness. If we will persist in reading them fairy stories, I don't think we can really complain.

The answer, I think, is to give up on trying to make them look like illustrations from a Milly Molly Mandy adventure and instead give them what they want in versions that we find acceptable. The best — and most expensive — of these come from a small company called little wings, which has managed to make dreamy little confections in layers of tulle and organza, some finished with pearl droplets, others hand-decorated with silk and velvet flowers.

Most adorable are the satin



ballet slippers, trimmed with blue icicle crystals, stars or petals, from £20.

I wouldn't be surprised if it is inundated with requests for adult sizes. Sophie Hamilton, who established little wings three months ago after searching vainly for a fairy outfit that wasn't kitsch, says she has already been asked to provide

wings in grown-up sizes. "I think most children dream of being fairies," says Sophie. "I had the most romantic, beautiful dress when I was little and it made me think that I really could fly."

Prices start at £50 for the hand-finished flower or maribou-trimmed skirts and reach £115 for a five-layered tulle and crystal dress — not cheap, but worth every penny if they put an end to pre-party disputes. Telephone/fax little wings on 0171-243 3840.

NEW technology, new etiquette. Now that regular Botox injections are becoming commonplace among the beauty-conscious in a bid to hold their frown lines at bay, a new form of one-upmanship is emerging in the waiting room.

Far from putting their pashminas up around their faces to avoid recognition, patients are launching into detailed accounts of precisely how much botulinum toxin they require to keep them looking gorgeous.

Since doctors charge according to the amount they need to use on each patient — with prices starting at about £150 — the latest chic social greeting is: "One zampoule or two?"

QUOTE OF THE DAY FROM CORBY

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Bob Phillips



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NOTICE OF VARIATION INTEREST



# of dressing up?



Black embroidered cardigan, £45, and red velvet top, £28, both by Warehouse, from branches nationwide (0171-225 1694); beaded necklace, £90, by Erickson Beamon, 38 Elizabeth Street, SW1 (0171-259 0202); amethyst flower ring, £12, from The Cross mail-order catalogue (0171-221 8616)

tury. But most people don't. They like to blend in. Or at least they like to stand out for the right reasons.

It's worse when dress codes are vague. "Come as you are" ranks among the most disingenuous advice in the English language, and there's something unsettling about suspecting that somehow you are expected to make an effort but not knowing to what degree.

These, then, are the problems. And given that nothing will make them go away, short of retiring permanently to a Tibetan retreat, the intelligent solution is to be prepared. This means researching and investing. It may even mean compiling a capsule wardrobe. Yes, I know the term has a dubious Eighties feel about it but in this instance I think it really is a good idea since a well-thought-out evening wardrobe will enable you to make a minimal number of purchases and still cover all bases.

Amanda Wakeley, the queen of British evening wear and, one might imagine, of the mother of all evening collections, swears by hers, not simply because she travels constantly and doesn't always have access to the sample rail in her studio, but because she hates having "lots of stuff". Since she attends a monumental number of parties a month and manages to look right at

all of them, it's worth considering her own list:

1. A well-cut tuxedo trouser suit. "It looks sexy worn with nothing underneath and is a brilliant standby for those events when you don't know quite what to expect — a smart dinner party, for instance."

2. A strapless long dress in black or midnight crepe for really formal evenings. This should be simple, but beautifully cut for dramatic impact. If you're worried about too much bare flesh, invest in a beautiful wrap and take comfort in the forgiving nature of night-time lighting.

3. A dressy skirt or trousers in satin, velvet or beaded pashmina that can be worn with a little cashmere or moiré tank (see the Whistles one on this page or check out Marks & Spencer's silky silver sleeveless jumpers) for more relaxed evenings, or a beaded top when full-on glamour is called for.

4. Killer (ie, high) evening shoes.

5. A wrap — easier than a coat, which will rarely be the right length, and more versatile. Wakeley has sheepskin stoles, dyed to match her outfits (available from the Amanda Wakeley Collection), and pashminas that can be worn inside and out (see number 3). This little lot would, she

says, take her anywhere. To simplify things further, she keeps to a restricted colour palette so that everything co-ordinates: black, white and grey in winter, black, white and tan in summer.

This list can be endlessly tweaked. Personally, I'd swap the tuxedo (fantastic when it's offset by her blonde mane, not quite the same effect with a brown crop) for the best, classic black cocktail dress I could afford. I'd opt for an embroidered, beaded skirt (such as the one here from Elspeth Gibson), because being a fashion type I'm likely to wear velvet or satin during the day, and the whole point of evening wear is to make you feel special.

**Y**ou may also want to dispense with the long gown, though on the whole, even if you go to a very smart gala only every two years, it's worth investing in a beautiful one. If you avoid obvious fashion trends — anything tricky, anything that has been plastered across the fashion magazines — your choices shouldn't date for at least five years. And having a mainstay that makes you feel confident should stop you squandering small fortunes on another mistake.

Amanda Platt, a freelance style consultant, sends her clients to Liberty and A la Mode in Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, to work out what they really like, then tells them to look for high street versions because she thinks any high fashion evening wear should not cost much. Even then, beware the season's big gimmick (in this instance sequins — they should be confined to a belt, bag or shoes).

"Too many British women look diabolical at night because they abandon what suits them. Night-time means wearing the same silhouettes

that work during the day, but in different fabrics. Textures are important, too," says Platt.

This is encouraging because British women tend to be comfortable mixing layers of different fabrics and textures (years of living in draughty houses does have advantages), which helps to explain why so many traditional evening-wear elements — beading, velvets and silks — are making their way into homeware.

Back on the clothes front, Platt is pro stretch satins on slim women because "they're sexy, which is important at night, and flatter the skin", and velvets on bigger women. "A lot of night-time dressing is about creating illusion — looking barer than you are or more daring. I'm all for having classics, but you need to add something that stops it all looking too drearily tasteful."

Shoes are the most reliable standby here — the higher and more twinkly, the better. "You'd be amazed how racy a boring old black suit can look with ankle-strap shoes," says Platt. She suggests tracking down shoes with a strap that sit above the ankle as they flatter most legs. Tights are another overlooked area, but one that can make or break a look. "You can't beat Wolford's nine-denier tights for a sheer, pretty look, or its double-layer fishnets, which will spice up the most conventional outfit."

Finally, it isn't often that you hear a fashion editor exhorting you to exert quite such caution in the face of trends. But years of observing that the women having most fun at big events are invariably the ones deploying what might be termed traditional tactics — high heels and low necklines — has convinced me that one's most modish, tasteful pieces are best left to daytime and those who will most appreciate them. That is to say, other women.

Photographs: RYAN SULLIVAN; Stylist: Deborah Brett. Hair and make-up: Dirk Neuhofer at Michaeljohn Management; Model: Faye at Storm. Last week's photographs were taken by Ben Murphy



Gray velvet trousers, £200, by Ghost, 13-14 Hinde Street, W1 (0181-960 3121); grey sequined jumper, £115, by Whistles, from Fenwick (as before); grey snakeskin flat pxd shoes, £295, by Gina, 189 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 2532); fake wolf fur throw, £245, by Helene Berman (as before)

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**ANN BOYD**  
INTERIOR DESIGNER  
Former European creative director of Ralph Lauren

Describe your personal style? Plain, unfussy and simple

What period in fashion do you love? Now; there's freedom of choice, but you must choose well.

What piece of clothing can you not live without? The white T-shirt. I have more than 100.

What are your pet hates regarding fashion? I hate the slavish following of fashion regardless of whether it suits you or not.

What do you think of current fashion trends? I try not to.

What is the most expensive/luxurious item you have ever bought? A beaded Navajo jacket from

**STYLE FILE**  
by Deborah Brett

Ralph Lauren. It cost £4,000 ten years ago.

What is your favourite shop? Nicole Farhi on Bond Street. The clothes are easy but stylish, the layout pleasing and the staff the nicest in London.

What piece of clothing/accessory would you most like to receive as a gift? A pale blue double-cashmere dressing gown from N. Peal.

How often do you shop? Maybe once a season. When I'm in the mood I enjoy buying loads from Nicole Farhi, Ralph Lauren, Joseph and anything suede from Banana Republic in New York.

What is your style motto? Keep it simple.

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**THEATRE**  
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in *Toothless*  
THIS PAGE

# THE TIMES ARTS

COMEDY



## Ain't she just a little too sweet?

**O**pera back in Rosebery Avenue, and with a piece played regularly by the old resident company — not just the occasion of nostalgia for oldsters but a harbinger for the future. Even as rejigged, with sightlines and stage-auditorium ratio vastly improved, the Wells is the perfect size for almost all the repertoire: here is the 1,500-seater London has lacked for far too long, and I hope that Ian Albery will allow the occasional season, despite his well-aided reservations about the genre and its

OPERA

### The Bartered Bride Sadler's Wells

current purveyors, the homeless Royal Opera.

It would be rash to pronounce on acoustics after a single visit, but from the centre stalls the voices are immediate and full, and the chorus, perhaps trying a little too hard, produced an impressive if somewhat relentless barrage of sound. No doubts, though, about the Royal Opera House Orchestra under Bernard Haitink every note from hushed pianissimo to rumbustious forte spoke clearly.

Haitink launched Smetana's famous overture at perhaps too deliberate a pace for its gale-of-fresh-air exuberance, but the precision of the scurrying strings and the clarity of the dizzying development section showed why. Thereafter, he led the dances with proper Bohemian bounce and shaped the more sentimental passages with affection and understanding in a hugely lovable musical performance.

Francesca Zambello's production is carefree and pretty almost to a fault. Alison Chitty's set is a plain wooden structure — we might almost be in America's Midwest for a barn-raising — brought to life by Wolfgang Göbbel's constantly shifting washes of warm light. The costumes are fairytale Czech in lime-green and yellow, all in operatic never-never-land period.

There's not a trench-coat, Kalashnikov or hypodermic syringe to be seen — nor yet a speck of mud — and in that sense it's an incredibly daring staging (European critics would slaughter it). Hordes of



A Victorian circus comes to Bohemia: the new Royal Opera staging of *The Bartered Bride* at Sadler's Wells Theatre, with Robert Tear (the Ringmaster, centre) and Colette Delahuzac (Emeralda, centre foreground)

little children scamper about, reminding some of us that this is the season of King Herod as well as the Nativity: I just wish they wouldn't squeal during some of Smetana's most beautiful postludes.

Is all this enough? In a sense David Short's excellent programme note about class structure in Bohemian village life shows the production in the foot: there's no sign of it on stage, with little difference in costuming between the Michas and the Krusinas; and the role of the marriage broker is imprecise, untreatening.

And what about Smetana's, and indeed opera's, role in the movement towards Czech independence? Zambello's Victorian circus is sweet, but is it a symbol of anarchy? All right, this is a rustic comedy, but there is a subtext and it has been purposefully ignored.

But enough of this unseasonal grouching. There's some fine singing, once you get over the dotiness of a non-Czech cast singing Czech at an audience in which plane loads from Prague over for their Christmas shopping were noticeable by their absence.

Ian Bostridge's stuttering Vasek is a masterly creation in a perceptible tradition — when the company last performed the piece the role was taken by Peter Pears. Franz Hawlata at least makes something of the language and wields a powerful bass as the Marriage Broker, but should he really be so matey with the boys down the pub? Two Finns, Soile Isoski and Jorma Silvasti, sing the demanding roles of hero and heroine with charm.

There are riches elsewhere, including Roberto Salazar's hilarious fake Indian, Gwyneth Howell's tumbled Krusina, and Anne Howells, commanding as the stutterer's mother. All undemanding fun: I want more, even at Christmas.

RODNEY MILNES

## Welcome to the pantomime season

**A**lthough Jools Holland is best known as the genial host of the BBC TV series *Later*, he still thinks of himself primarily as a musician. Indeed, it is his fluency in piano playing and keen ear for all sorts of music that form the basis of the easy rapport he enjoys with the many guests who appear on his programme.

In concert at the Festival Hall on Friday, he presided over his 12-piece Rhythm and Blues Orchestra with a similar-

**POP**  
Jools Holland  
Festival Hall

ly breezy charm, evoking a relaxed sense of camaraderie which extended beyond the stage to embrace a capacity crowd that was singing and dancing in the aisles by the end of the show.

Taken at face value, it was a polished and entertaining performance featuring musician-ship of a high calibre. Holland's technique as a boogie woogie pianist was certainly never in doubt. On blues and jazz standards ranging from Memphis Slim's *Every Day I Have The Blues* to Count Basie's *Avenue C*, he pumped out chattering melody lines and striding left-hand bass figures with phenomenal vigour, yet made it look effortless.

His band, including an eight-piece horn section, was comprised of similarly well-seasoned players. The ensemble playing was sensational on *Beatroute* — the romping, spy movie-inspired theme to Holland's new TV series of the same name — and there were many outstanding individual contributions, notably from organist Mick Talbot, trombonist Rico Rodriguez and saxophonist Leo Green. Drummer Gilson Lavis, Holland's long-standing colleague from Squeeze, provided an elegantly explosive solo during Joe Liggins's *The Honeydripper*.

But for all its populist appeal, the show was marred by various shortcomings. Holland is no great shakes as a singer, and his ineffectual whine and fake American accent became ever more grating as the evening went on. The

problem was only compounded by the arrival of the guest vocalist — Carleen Anderson, who belted out her version of Paul McCartney's *Maybe I'm Amazed* with complete indifference either to note or nuance, and hammed up an arrangement of the carol *Silent Night* that hovered uncertainly between gospel singalong and office-party knees-up.

The four Christmas trees which lit up behind the musicians at this point provided a timely reminder that the show was, after all, only a part of pop's pantomime season. The impression remained of Holland as a knowledgeable musician and pleasant bloke who prefers to skim across the surface of his material rather than dig deep to produce a performance of real weight.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## Daughter of darkness

**R**ECENT interviews have claimed the emergence of a new all-singing, happy and contented Polly Jean Harvey. "the angst-ridden old bitch cow" (her own description) a thing of the past. Even so, her most recent album *Is This Desire?* is perhaps her most tortured to date, full of songs which offset nightmarish tales of foreboding and despair against a dense and brooding soundscape.

**P.J. Harvey**  
Glasgow

Its litany of obsession, sin and death is not to everyone's taste, but there is a compelling quality to her searing and sometimes claustrophobic soul-searching. Whatever contentment Harvey has found, she is not about to present the world with a series of merry singalong ditties. At Glasgow's Barrowlands, the first date of her new

British tour, she played all but one of the songs from *Is This Desire?* Her last British tour, three years ago, reduced her to a breakdown but here she seemed confident and self-possessed. She looked less wraithlike than in a long time, and her voice had a strength not always apparent on the album, with its protective layers of sound.

The sound provided by her long-time collaborator Don Parrish on guitar, multi-instrumentalist and former Captain Beefheart sideman Eric Drew Feldman, drummer Rob Ellis and bassist Jeremy Hogg, was angular and jagged, allowing Harvey's elastic voice space to breathe. She opened with the sparse and bluesy *Catherine* and followed with the half-spoken *Rope Bridge Crossing*. By the time the band hit the hypnotic *No Hope for Joy* Harvey was clearly enjoying herself, rocking back and forth on the microphone or doing a shamanistic dance at the back of the stage. Her famous banshee wail was unleashed to effect on *Perfect Day* Eliza, her phrasing on *Angeline* showed the influence of the folk ballad tradition in which she grew up and a radically reconstructed version of Bob Dylan's *Highway 61* was an unexpected bonus.

Until the final "Thank you for coming" as she quit the stage, there was no superfluous barrier between songs. But she held her audience enthralled throughout, in a cathartic performance with its own sense of theatre that transcended the confines of a conventional rock gig.

NIGEL  
WILLIAMSON

## Voyage round a mother

**THEATRE**  
*Toothless*  
BAC, SW11

mother's beliefs and the changing nature of their relationship.

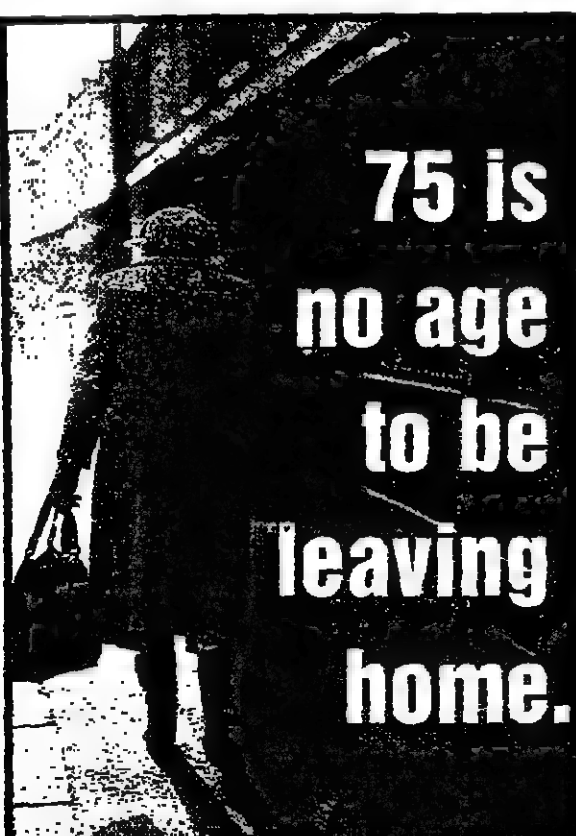
Hohki's commentary on her mother's sickness is delightfully forthright. At one point her mother has just died heavily but still refuses to admit anything is wrong with her; Hohki remembers her leaning back, woefully in her seat, "repeating 'oh, I feel good. I feel good' like some kind of porno star".

The told story is bolstered by animations, slide shows and excellent live music. One

of the most endearing sequences is the story of the mother's life told through live animation: sitting on the floor Hohki moves puppets in front of a video camera that projects on to a large screen on the other side of the stage. Pre-recorded video sequences, featuring Hohki's toy theatre, are not always as satisfying: for some reason having ambulancemen played by two painted dinosaurs (one with a tattoo) works brilliantly; elsewhere the relevance is more obscure. But the bravery of the final section, in which the cardboard mother is placed in the domestic gas oven for cremation, rescues the exercise from falling into pointless kitsch.

While the story is fascinating, Hohki's deliberately ingenious and downbeat performing style often makes it hard to follow what she is saying and gives the performance a degree of informality that could begin to grate. Otherwise this is a complex and fascinating exercise in modern tragic-comedy.

HETTIE JUDAH



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# Old boots in fine repair

Why does a nice woman such as Diana Rigg play so many monsters?  
Benedict Nightingale reports

Here's a good question for the kind of quiz that surfaces in the papers at Christmas: Who is the only actress to have appeared in a list of the century's sexiest women? All right, let's make it easier. Which Dame of the British Empire did the readers of *Playboy* recently rate among the 100 most winsome dames they could name? Very well, let's reverse the paradox. Which internationally renowned, still youthful 60-year-old actress now makes a speciality of playing ageing ogres and what she herself calls "embittered old bags"?

The answer is, of course, Dame Diana Rigg. After Euripides's *Medea* came Brecht's *Mother Courage*, and after that human hyena came Martha in Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, and after that raging dipsomaniac came Racine's *Phèdre* and the same actress's Agrippina: women turned into monsters by (respectively) lust and power. If she were to confide a determination to play Medusa, Caliban or the Cyclops, I think my eyebrows would stay unruffled.

Rigg has spent much of the 1990s failing to dwindle into a silver-haired character, still less an old dear; and she is not finished yet. Remember the Mrs. Devereux she played in the TV version of *Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca*, picking up an *Emmy* for her efforts? You can find the same mushroom-coloured face and much the same baleful stare on BBC2 over Christmas, when Rigg puts in a characteristically fierce, unfettered performance as a woman whose life work is to ensure that her clan's blue blood remains undimmed by anything fresh or new: Madame de Bellegarde in an adaptation of Henry James's *The American*.

Imagine the reaction of your

"I'd like to do a farce, but I don't get offered affable parts"

average star if Paul Urwin, who directs, had offered her the role. Isn't the character off-puttingly unsympathetic? Wouldn't it be bad for her image? But Rigg thinks that weird, difficult or evil characters are more rewarding to play, and that sympathy can only emerge "unsought", enforced and of its own accord. Equally, she dismisses concern with image as "rubbish".

It isn't surprising, then, that she decided to play great old Bellegarde after Urwin told her he wanted to renounce sentimentality and pretentiousness for emotional immediacy. "Costume dramas tend to be so bloodless it can be hard to pick one from another," she says. "It was when Paul said he was aiming for a robust, passionate style that I wanted to join the exercise."

It now seems odd that, less than a decade ago, Rigg would probably have been made a



Christmas treat: Diana Rigg looks forward to playing the battleaxe Madame de Bellegarde in *The American* on BBC2

written on the last vestiges of her power. I suspect she knows what she's given birth to, and that he will kill her."

Would she count that her most satisfying role, then? "Yes, and no. 'Always the particular one I'm doing is my favourite. I give it my total and utter loyalty at the time. I don't want to sound complacent, but I just love my work. I still feel a sense of relief whenever I go into the theatre at night, and I love it when I look up at the curtain-call and see all those spectral faces in the gods. I try not to see them as a body of people but as individuals, and I bless them every night."

Rigg is a conscientious preparer of roles. For Bellegarde she immersed herself in books about 19th-century Paris, although they were of limited

use when she came to play a character so trapped in her aristocratic exile. But she also relies on observation, imagination and her immediate emotions. With *Medea*, the horror of children splattered to death against a wall was much in her mind. "And that scene in *Virginia Woolf* where Martha's husband destroys her, I found very painful. I can't cry to order. I have to feel it then and there. But with Martha I was in tears every night."

But wouldn't it be a relief to tackle some non-grim, non-painful roles? Well, a TV series in which she plays a 1920s detective called Mrs Bradley is in the offing. Yet the theatrical producers no longer seem to see her as the charming, humorous actress she can be. "I'm longing to do a comedy,

I'd like to do a farce. But I don't get offered affable parts. I seem to have got slightly typecast. It's weird."

It's doubly weird because the reason she has never had the career she deserves on the big screen is probably that the producers have mentally typecast her in a diametrically opposite way. They have dismissed her as the lightweight who played leather-clad pranks in *The Avengers* and, a bit later, married James Bond in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. "I'm just not offered serious parts. My film CV is virtually nonexistent, so they say let's not bother. I'd love the chance—not to be a film star, I've no delusions that way, but to do good work."

It is very contradictory, but then contradiction seems to be the lot of a woman who is currently preparing her inaugural lecture as next year's Cameron Mackintosh Professor of Theatre at Oxford, waiting for her majestically horrible Bellegarde to hit our TV screens—and being relentlessly teased by friends for her *Playboy* billing as one of our era's top sexpots. Eminent dame though she is, she admits to being gratified by the last of these achievements: "Wouldn't you be? It's a hoot. The whole *Phèdre* company was crying with laughter. I may play old boots, and I may look like a right old boot in *The American*. But who cares if I'm that sexy? It's lent a new spring to my step."

© The American will be shown on BBC2 on Boxing Day (10.15pm)

## Dear Star Wars

THINK of it, if you will, as a one-man adult panto. On the same stage where Angela Carter's version of *Cinderella* unfolds this Christmas, Phil Jupitus launches into a convoluted reworking of that modern fairy story, *Star Wars*. *Jedi Steady Go* is a love-letter to the space epic that he first saw as a teenager in a cinema where, as he tells it, a demented organist could still be heard charging through Yes, Sir, *That's My Baby*.

Of course, Jupitus can see through the contrivances of George Lucas's intergalactic plot and he knows that R2D2 is little more than a pedal bin with a wok on top. All the same, he cannot help being swept along by the sub-Dan Dare spectacle.

Darth Vader's grim visage stares out at us from the top of a column at centre-stage. Surrounded by cut-out figures of

COMEDY  
Phil Jupitus  
Lyric Hammersmith

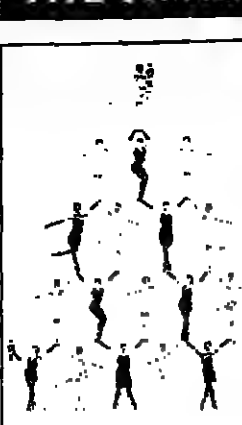
Luke Skywalker and his fellow warriors, Jupitus jogs diligently through the storyline. An assured mimic, he reproduces everything from the Twentieth Century Fox fanfare to the roll of Alec Guinness's vowels.

Along the way he evokes an alternative universe squeezed into his native corner of Essex. Guinness, far from being a sage of the known Universe, becomes a hell-raising scourge of the local pubs and clubs, ready to take on allcomers. A prime candidate for a Steven Spielberg Chair in Media Studies, Jupitus manages to work in countless pop culture references. Don't be surprised to encounter a Dalek or two wandering into the monologue as our narrator doodles at the margins of the screenplay.

Don't fall into the mistake, either, of thinking this is a show for the children. Jupitus, who is always a more amiable figure in the flesh than on TV, smuggles a hefty quota of predictably off-colour jokes into the proceedings. Hence the health warning posted by his warm-up act, John Mann, a gifted comic who also could not resist occasionally going for the same old shock tactics. Jupitus, for his part, ended on a high note, crooning new words to the tune of *Makin' Whoopee*. He goes back into orbit on Thursday and Friday.

CLIVE DAVIS

This week in THE TIMES



DANCE

Derek Deane's candyfloss *Nutcracker* gets ENB's Coliseum season on its way  
OPENS: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE

Ian McKellen basks in the elegant wit of Coward's *Present Laughter* in Leeds  
OPENS: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



FILM

The story of Moses receives the animation treatment in *The Prince of Egypt*  
RELEASED: Friday  
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: At the Festival Hall, tomorrow, Leonard Slatkin and the Philharmonia open a series of Czech music

### OPERA & BALLET

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Ballets: *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*  
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## The papers miss the real story

Winning in Europe is a matter of attitude, says Tony Blair

The coverage of the Vienna summit had a familiar ring to it. Once again, there was talk of the vile plans that other European countries had for Britain. Then there were denials from the Government, and accusations of scare stories. They were followed by counter-accusations that the Government was just blaming the press for its own troubles.

To compound the curious sense of nostalgia, I have been compared in the past few days to Margaret Thatcher and John Major. I was, apparently, compared to Lady Thatcher because I stood up for Britain and to Mr Major because I said Britain should be constructive in Europe, with the implication that such a stance is doomed to failure. On that basis, people have said that nothing has changed.

But it has. I don't have Mrs Thatcher's attitude to Europe and I don't, thankfully, lead Mr Major's party. When I say that I want Britain to be a leading partner in Europe, engaged in shaping its future, I mean it. And I can deliver it. It is not surprising that Britain's relations with Europe cause us anguish.

They reach deep into the nation's psyche. We are an island, our political culture different from that of much of continental Europe.

But we did join the Common Market because, in the end, we knew it was in our interests. We can either make it work or opt out of it and retreat to the margins, where the Tories took us. It is time to get some maturity into our relationship with Europe.

The two weeks in which the tax harmonisation row raged were bizarre. There were screaming headlines, about the Germans setting our taxes, VAT on children's clothes and our veto on tax being abolished, all from newspapers hostile to the EU. As ever, the papers more neutral on Europe simply caved in to the same agenda. Other media around the world scratched their heads in bemusement.

The casualty has been any sense of balance in the debate. A lot of the stories were simply untrue. A few did represent a genuine debate. There are some people in Europe who believe that, with a single currency in place, greater co-ordination of economic policy will lead, over time, to more harmonisation of taxes. There are even a few who believe in preventing tax competition, to ensure that countries with inefficient social systems, or high taxes, which don't want to reform, can avoid change by ensuring that others' costs match theirs.

But those voices do not remotely represent a unanimous EU view. In fact, as the Vienna conclusions show, the majority incline the other way. The summit ruled out uniform tax rates and supported tax competition. The idea that there is some grand EU design to bump up taxes is just false.

We gain absolutely nothing by losing that sense of balance in the debate. Naturally, if Europe proposes something foolish, I will work to stop it. If necessary, I will do it alone. But I don't start from there. I don't go to every summit or every meeting asking how many times I can use the veto.

At Vienna, pre-summit statements from the UK, with France, Germany, Sweden and Spain — all welcomed by other countries — were simply washed away by the age-old cliché of Britain isolated.

All countries have difficulties with the EU financing reform necessary for enlargement. By far the biggest issue is the desire of the northern states to stabilise EU spending, with the southern states in favour of more spending. In this, we are in the majority. Naturally, in the context of discussing EU finance, others may raise our rebate. We will defend it. They fight for their interests. We fight for ours. My point is just this: without balance, the public gets little sense that we are conducting such a fight sensibly, in a way that does not undermine our long-term interests.

For, ultimately, the sceptics' case leads to Britain's withdrawal from Europe, even though few seriously argue that. I believe that our interests lie clearly in Europe and that the best policy for Britain is to engage constructively for the type of Europe we want.

There are real debates within Europe. Do we want economic reform or corporatism? Do we want a Europe which is building bridges, or barriers, to the US? Should we move to a centralised EU or one based on subsidiarity? And there is a genuine debate about the European social model.

The more intelligent Eurosceptics simply believe it is unrealistic to imagine that we can win this debate. I don't. I believe we can build the support and alliances to win the debate, if we have credibility by being positive and constructive towards Europe itself. And if we're not, we opt out of the debate, then what? The debate could be lost, with us still hanging on, half in, half out, affected by developments in Europe but never affecting them.

That is why we want the euro to succeed, why we have set a new course for the country on it, preparing for its advent, while making it clear that the decision as to whether we join will be taken in our economic interest and with the consent of the people.

The irony is that, despite all the noise, we are probably in a stronger position to play a real part in Europe than we have been for years. As the debate on defence, or the lifting of the beef ban, shows, by engaging constructively we are winning arguments in Europe. This is our opportunity, but only if we lose the psychology of failure and start to have confidence that we can succeed.

Proposed mergers that place key defence concerns in foreign hands are politically unacceptable

## Britain, a nation of subcontractors

Britain has given up ownership and management control over large areas of manufacturing industry. Does this matter? We now have no independently managed British motor industry, apart from a few tiny companies — Lea Francis, Bristol, the Robin Reliant. We are having to consider possible mergers in which control of our aerospace and electronic defence industries might follow. We have even had the same process, outside manufacturing, in the City. Warburtons, Baring's, Kleinwort's are subsidiaries of foreign banks. Whether the process is regarded as one of globalisation or Europeanisation, it makes people nervous. Napoleon called us a nation of shopkeepers: we are in danger of becoming a nation of subcontractors.

The latest proposal is the merger of British Aerospace with Daimler Chrysler Aerospace of Germany (DASA). This would not create a new independent European company; apparently British Aerospace would contribute some 65 per cent of the assets, and distribute 65 per cent of the shares to its own shareholders. Daimler Chrysler would contribute 35 per cent of the assets, but the parent company would retain up to 35 per cent of the shares — more than sufficient for control. Ultimate power over management would belong to Daimler Chrysler.

There is a further suggestion that GEC should either merge with British Aerospace or with the British Aerospace-DASA combine, or that it should dispose of the Marconi business to British Aerospace or the combine. Even here there is talk of similar terms being offered. This would amount to a sale. GEC shareholders would get shares in one or other new company, but GEC itself would be cut out of the management equation, at least for

profit. If there is a choice between closing a factory where their own votes are or closing one in another country, they will opt for laying off the other fellow's voters. Business managers are always more open to influence by the home government than to foreign pressure. True in America, true in Germany, true in Britain.

International defence mergers are therefore quite different from other international mergers. There has to be a political balance in the ownership of management structures, which result. If British Aerospace is providing 65 per cent of the assets of the proposed merger with DASA, it should have at least 50 per cent of the voting shares. This is not known as nationalism or old-fashioned protectionism, simply the recognition that defence involves a political commitment unlike any other. This is not just a matter of satisfying the shareholders; the politicians have to be satisfied as well. Beyond the issues of jobs and votes, there is the issue of

William Rees-Mogg

national survival. In an ideal world these political considerations might not exist. But in an ideal world, there might be less pressure for these mega-mergers. Businessmen are excited by size, and plenty of people, including some top managers as well as bankers, make money out of big deals. Yet the actual record of big mergers is disappointing: research suggests that at least half of all mergers fail to deliver what was promised. I get the impression that most of the City banking mergers of the 1990s have been very unsatisfactory. Rather few people are competent to manage a single large business, with a single national culture. Hardly anyone knows how to manage a combination of two or more large businesses, with different business and national cultures.

There is even a proposal for a very broad, European defence merger, "Euroco", which would take in British Aerospace, DASA and France's Matra Dassault and Aerospatiale. Eventually it would have to include Saab, Alenia and Italy's Cass. Politically, this might be acceptable: a full European management structure might relate better to European governments. But managerially, it would be a nightmare. Most chief executives of these companies are fully stretched running their own businesses: Euroco would, almost inevitably, be run by negotiation,

compromise and committees. Concorde, Eurofighter and Airbus have all been projects which have been seriously compromised by the internal struggles for national interests.

There are three big questions to be answered: what types of integration might be appropriate? Are aerospace and electronics separate businesses, or just parts of the defence business? What other nation offers the best fit for these British businesses? While I was on the GEC board, we had many negotiations with British Aerospace: none reached the point at which a merger would have been acceptable to the Ministry of Defence. Such a merger would have involved vertical integration, which the ministry and British Aerospace itself regarded as inherently too inefficient. British Aerospace strongly condemned vertical integration in its evidence on the GEC takeover of VSEL.

Aerospace and electronics are not the same business, but complementary businesses with some overlap of customers. They have different technologies, different futures and probably a widening disparity of markets. They also have significantly different risk profiles. British Aerospace has historically had volatile earnings, more dependent on big contracts which can produce big profits or big trouble. My view is that France, rather than Germany, is likely to be the best partner both for Britain's aerospace and electronics, but that any mergers should be done separately, that they may need more time, and that they will depend on achieving a political balance of ownership, control and management. I am sure the British do not want defence to follow manufacturing and merchant banking into foreign control.

## The jingoism stops here

Labour has opted to take a harder pro-European line, says Peter Riddell

The alliance of convenience between new Labour and the sceptic press was always bogus and is now, at long last, over. The Blair Government has liberated itself over the past week to emerge in its true pro-European colours.

So far in the 1990s, the domestic debate has been framed largely in sceptic terms. Everything has been portrayed as a zero sum game with Britain on its own against the rest of the EU, and always the loser. Ministers have been forced to argue against this stereotype. Tony Blair is not blameless. He wrote a crass "I'll always battle for Britain" article for *The Sun* on the day before the paper endorsed him in March 1997.

The Blair strategy has been gradualist, avoiding confrontation with the sceptic press. The aim has been to win over the public to a more favourable view of the EU and, in time, the euro. The risk has always been that the Government would appear two-faced, talking toughly about fighting for the national interest while simultaneously engaging in the give and take inevitable in a group of 15 countries.

This approach has been challenged by the row over tax harmonisation. The 11 euro participants intend to press ahead with closer co-ordination of economic policies to make monetary union work. That has raised uncomfortable questions for Britain, which has usually pretended that a single currency need not involve closer political or economic integration. Initially, Treasury ministers mishandled the issue by dismissing absolutely the ideas of Oskar Lafontaine. That both underestimated the support Herr Lafontaine has and fed a wave of alarmist stories in the



sceptic press. *The Sun* has appeared to be running its own foreign policy towards Germany: after all, Trevor Kavanagh, its political editor, has as much gravitas as Robin Cook on these matters.

The reality is mostly less worrying. There are no serious plans for a common income or corporation tax, nor for removing VAT exemptions. However, some of the proposals on limiting special tax breaks raise problems for Britain, among other countries, while the suggested withholding tax endangers the eurobond market in London.

The Government has been forced on to the defensive, to the undisguised glee of the sceptic press. Moreover, a new MORI poll for Salmon Smith Barney has shown a partial reversal of the post-election

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

reduction in hostility to joining the euro. Consequently, last Monday, a group of senior ministers and advisers decided that the Government had to confront the sceptic press. This new line was confirmed at Thursday's Cabinet meeting and resulted in Dr Jack Cunningham's robust remarks about the sceptic media that day, and in Mr Blair's pre-summit interviews.

The new approach — reflecting the hand of Peter Mandelson, the strongly pro-European Trade and Industry Secretary — involves pointing out that a section of the British press has a gut hostility to the EU which affects its reporting. An aim is to show that Mr Blair, unlike John Major, is

willing to take on the sceptics. The tone is supposed to be non-aggressive, but my hunch is that the Government will also have to develop a more active rebuttal policy, against specific allegations, as Labour did ahead of the election.

Mr Blair talks, in his article on this page, of restoring "a sense of balance in the debate". That is certainly necessary, but it is not enough. Mr Blair has to be more candid about his European strategy. He has consciously turned his back on a veto strategy and sought to contrast himself with the Tories by urging constructive engagement rather than "handbagging".

Downing Street was active before the Vienna summit in agreeing joint statements with the French on defence policy, with Spain on barriers

to employment, with Sweden on social exclusion and with Germany on tax, as well as in lifting the beef export ban. Moreover, on many questions Britain is closely aligned with Germany and/or France, such as on delaying the abolition of duty-free and, in particular, over freezing the size of the EU budget for several years. The main arguments over the budget, reform of the common agricultural policy and enlargement are not between Britain and the rest of the EU, but between the wealthier North and the poorer, more agricultural South. In this respect, the key development is the strong support of the new German coalition for CAP reform.

Nonetheless, the British rebate presents awkward dilemmas. It is not merely a symbol of Baroness Thatcher's "my money" legacy. Even pro-European Blairites defend the rebate, since otherwise we would pay an unfairly high contribution. This problem will remain as long as half the EU budget goes on the CAP, since this works against Britain with its small, efficient farming sector. British denials that the rebate is up for negotiation are partly a tactic to force much-needed radical changes in the CAP that would make the rebate unnecessary. Such reforms will be required as part of the changes involved in enlargement to the East, when the money that Britain receives from the structural fund will also decline. Ahead of such changes, however, the rebate is likely to stay.

The flaw in the Blair case is the single currency. The rest of the EU, particularly the 11 euro founders, will continue to be cool about Mr Blair's claims about constructive engagement as long as Britain remains outside its most important initiative. That inevitably limits British influence, despite the hubristic talk of "winning arguments in Europe".

If the Government is now belatedly ready to tackle the sceptic press, then it has nothing to lose and much to gain from making explicit its intention to join in three or four years. It is no good relying on the launch of the euro to create an inevitable wave of support for entry. Mr Blair has to give a strong lead himself.

## Wife's wheels

SIR JOHN BIRT'S missus is provided with a runabout, courtesy of you, my dear reader. Lady Birt, the wife of the BBC's Director-General, has the use of a Range Rover, worth about £40,000 and paid for by licence-payers. The perk comes on top of Sir John's £354,000 annual salary and his chauffeur-driven Rover saloon, also provided by the Beeb. Trying to find out more about Lady B's wheels was initially difficult: three Range Rovers were parked outside the Birt in Wandsworth yesterday. When I called Sir John's office, a flunkie initially expressed surprise that I should be inquiring about what she termed a "private matter".

But after I humbly intimated that Sir John ran a public body, she argued that such perks were normal for the heads of large organisations. (My private secretary chums, however, say that provision of a car to a chief executive's wife is almost unheard of.)

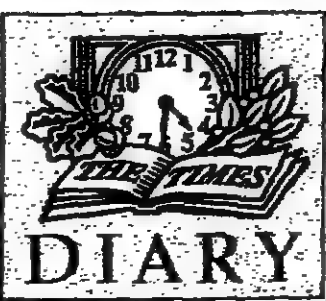
This is not the first time the Birts (pictured) have been embarrassed by their financial relations with the Beeb. "Armanigante" in the early Nineties revealed that, under a confidential arrangement, Sir John had been avoiding PAYE tax by being paid as a freelance through his company, John Birt Productions. The company, in turn, paid the then plain Jane Birt £14,000 as a director and £15,000 as a secretary. How will the couple survive when Sir John steps down in 2000?



THE pitfalls of fame. Since he appeared in *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* alongside Vinnie Jones, Nick Moran has attracted the nickname of "The Moose" because he is chatted up by so many plain, over-dopey girls.

### Unsullied

IS Ron Davies in denial? I merely ask because the would-be-Glyndwr



appears to have cleared himself of any blame for his humiliation after stretching his legs so disastrously on Clapham Common in the early hours back in October.

"I will not allow the whole of my political future to be determined by a street robber," he says, during a conversation over the weekend. "I'm delighted that people understand I was the victim of a crime and that I have done nothing illegal or improper."

I feel sympathy for the poor man. After all, what have we come to when a middle-aged Cabinet minister cannot walk across a park in the dark without aspersions being cast about his motives?

JACKIE LAWRENCE, a Labour MP for somewhere obscure in Wales, has come up with a witty riposte to those who damn her for being an unnatural blonde. "I just

wish," says the woman who arrived at Westminster only last year, "people would take as much interest in the many male MPs who try to go darker with Grecian 2000."

### Oil slickers

THE world of Damien Hirst has finally overwhelmed that bastion of tradition, the Royal Academy Schools. Under its new keeper, Brendan Neiland, the institution is recruiting students on the strength of their talent for showmanship as much as their abilities to paint.

They will also be tutored by lawyers, art dealers and accountants, and receive seminars on how to fill in grant applications. Former students worry for the last school in the country with a firm commitment to figurative training.

"It will open the RA Schools to charlatans and exhibitionists," an erstwhile pupil says. "Traditional art training will be turned into a branch of showbusiness where a few impresarios, such as Charles Saatchi, have all the power to make or break these entertainers." As Neiland is a Professor of Art at Brighton University, it hardly comes as a surprise.

HARD times for the Hamiltons. I knock into the delightful Neil and Christine at a party just as they

lunge in tandem for the nibbles passing on a tray. "We have to get our food where we can these days."

### Match fixing

A TOP independent school in London is happily planning to uproot a statue of its founder to ensure that it can cash in on a £500,000 grant. St Paul's has been offered the money by an anonymous benefactor as long as the school builds a racket court over the site of the statue of John Colet, the Tudor humanist.

The little matter of there being no racket players at St Paul's does not



appear to have dampened enthusiasm for the new facilities. Stephen Baldock, the High Master, says: "I've never played the game myself. But I've talked to people who have and they say it's an exhilarating and skillful sport." Is the benefactor seeking a perverse revenge on the school?

ISNT Jonathan Pryce a gent? The actor leapt to the help of Claudia Gerini on the set of his latest film, *Commedia*, after the former model admitted she hardly spoke a word of English. "Jonathan really saved me by teaching me each day," she says. "He was such a lovely man and I learnt so much from him." How nice.

### Holy Mary

MARY ANN EVANS, aka George Eliot, was not the goddess woman of Victorian mythology. A new biography of her by Kathryn Hughes argues that despite the novelist's image as an aggressive atheist, she never stopped searching for God. "Far from being a sudden swerve, choosing to marry in church at the end of her life was an entirely consistent step," Hughes asserts. "The woman whose name had become a byword for godlessness turned out to have been a believer



all along." I shall have to reread my dog-eared copy of *Middlemarch*.

HILLARY CLINTON was so absorbed in the latest film of *Cygnets* (above), a romantic comedy, that she missed her flight back to Washington. During the opening speech she gave before the New York premiere of *Shakespeare in Love*, the First Lady said she would have to leave halfway through. But in the end Air Force One flew on ahead without her.

JASPER GERARD





## IMPEACHMENT HOUR

Clinton can still make censure an attractive alternative

Bill Clinton may have arrived in the Middle East prepared to act the statesman but when he returns to Washington the President will have little more than two days in which to persuade the House of Representatives not to pass articles of impeachment against him. The decision by the conservative House Judiciary Committee to press charges will have come as little surprise to the White House. The apparent willingness of moderate Republicans, at least at this stage, to follow that lead has, by contrast, stunned the Administration. The mid-term elections last month have not drawn a line under this issue.

Mr Clinton stands on the threshold of becoming the first President since Andrew Johnson in 1868 to be impeached by the House of Representatives. Mr Johnson survived in office when the Senate failed by a single vote to secure the two-thirds margin necessary for conviction. Mr Clinton's position in that chamber today is much more comfortable. There is no realistic prospect of his enforced departure from the Oval Office. The President's reputation and place in history are, though, linked to the final outcome of this scandal. An impeachment vote would be, as a White House aide conceded last week, the most memorable aspect of his tenure.

The President's plight would be improved if he admitted that, despite his best efforts, he had not merely failed to tell the whole truth, or offered misleading answers, but crossed the line and lied on oath about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. As he repeated again yesterday there is no chance that he will make such a statement. This would not only increase his exposure to criminal charges in the courts but constitute a confession to an offence — perjury — that led to the impeachment of two federal judges in the 1980s. Mr Clinton's stance may seem incredible even offensive but it is set in concrete.

The more sophisticated of the President's supporters have put forward a different set of arguments. Even if Mr Clinton lied under oath, it is said, the context of a sexual

liaison cannot be compared with "Treason, Bribery, or other high crimes and Misdemeanors" — the standard for impeachment set out in the American Constitution. Furthermore, the removal of an elected President is an act inevitably different in implication from that of other officials. A motion of censure, not impeachment, would therefore seem appropriate.

This is a more than respectable contention and one that deserves serious consideration. It is better than the simple assertion that the President should not be removed from office because opinion polls indicate public support for him. American law does not make any distinction between lies about sex and lies about any other subject. Any consideration about the context of such a crime rests not in the verdict but the sentence. An impeachment article cannot separate judgment and punishment. The US Constitution offers no foundation for treating Presidents differently from others who serve in public (or private) positions.

In this strict sense Congress has a choice between impeachment or no other action. There is no provision in the Constitution or American law for a motion of censure against a President. The nearest precedent relates to Andrew Jackson more than 160 years ago and that was repealed by a subsequent Congress. Mr Clinton's critics fear that censure in this instance would be meaningless. For that reason the Republican leadership is reluctant to allow even a debate on such a resolution.

That sentiment might shift if it were felt that censure could become a more significant option. This would require not only a change of language in the text itself but a more consistent display of regret from Mr Clinton. The President's contrition has often seemed to alter in scale and scope depending on political circumstances. He has never acknowledged that what he describes as his "private actions" have had profound public consequences for the presidency as an institution. If he does so now, and with compelling conviction, then Mr Clinton might yet avoid impeachment.

## IRVINE'S EMPIRE

All senior members of the judiciary face new scrutiny

The introduction of the Human Rights Act, Lord Irvine of Lairg acknowledges in an interview with *The Times* today, will place the judiciary in the spotlight of public scrutiny. The intensity of that beam can already be anticipated in the controversy surrounding Lord Hoffmann's links with Amnesty, a relationship that will be tested in court by General Pinochet's lawyers tomorrow. It is also reflected in the criticism that Lord Irvine has himself received for his appointments of Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough and Lord Millett as law lords. The two men have been attacked for their alleged conservatism. It has also been claimed that their careers in commercial law might be considered inappropriate in a new era of rights-based litigation.

The Lord Chancellor has rightly rounded on his critics. Lord Irvine's comments may be unprecedented but the present system of promotion by merit has merit in itself and should be defended. It was a tribute to the independence of his predecessor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, that a Conservative Lord Chancellor could appoint so many senior legal figures of a liberal disposition. Lord Irvine should also avoid promotion on the basis of partisan sympathies. His early appointments have been encouraging in this respect. He was also right to dismiss the ridiculous notion that commercial lawyers such as Lord Hobhouse and Lord Millett would somehow be incapable of impartially assessing cases concerning the civil liberties of citizens.

The Lord Chancellor may, though, be on less secure territory when he asserts that

the current system can be maintained in changed circumstances. Lord Irvine does not foresee the evolution of an American-style Bench, in which merit would be hostage to other, political, considerations.

It is indeed unlikely that Britain would move in the very near future in that American direction. This does not mean that present arrangements can last indefinitely. These are a mystery to anyone outside the highest level of the legal profession. There have already been calls for a judicial appointments commission to "advise" on future appointments or even a House of Commons select committee on such issues. Lord Irvine's instinctive caution about such innovations may be sound: he will find it difficult to avoid an enhanced element of transparency over matters of judicial selection.

He may also find that his own position comes within the sights of reformers. The Lord Chancellorship is an extraordinary constitutional creation. Lord Irvine sits in the Cabinet (and chairs numerous important committees), presides over the House of Lords and not only decides who serves in senior judicial posts but may himself act as a law lord. The combination of the Human Rights Act, reform of the Upper House and a programme of constitutional reform predicated at least in part on stronger checks and balances, would not seem to rest easily alongside Lord Irvine's empire. It may be Lord Irvine's destiny to be both the most powerful Lord Chancellor of modern times and the man who initiates the eventual erosion of his office.

## A BRIDGE OF HOPE

The chance to help the victims of Hurricane Mitch

More than 55 years ago Sir Donald Bailey invented a standardised, rapidly assembled bridge that played a vital role in liberating occupied Europe. Adapting the principles of quick assembly in remote and difficult locations, a British company is today building similar bridges that have been equally vital in saving lives: whether of Bosnians whose lifeline to the outside world has been cut by fighting or of villagers in the Third World left stranded when bridges have been swept away by floods or cracked by earthquakes.

Among recent victims of such disasters are the thousands of people in Central America whose lives were devastated by Hurricane Mitch. In five terrible days storms greater than anyone could remember unleashed raging rivers of mud that buried villages, washed away approach roads and destroyed bridges. The dazed populations of Honduras and Nicaragua have now buried their dead and are receiving emergency food supplies. But their economies have been set back decades. Rebuilding the shattered infrastructure will take years.

A first vital task must be the repair of the road network — a costly and laborious business, made particularly difficult by the destruction of 98 bridges, some over deep gorges and wide rivers. Until the lorries can bring relief, farmers and peasants will have to wait for the materials to rebuild

their communities. This is where Western generosity and ingenuity can help. Mabey and Johnson, a Reading-based firm that specialises in modular, prefabricated steel bridges, has the expertise for just such disasters. It is willing to assume all the site preparation and construction expenditure — a generous offer — if readers of *The Times* can raise the cost price of a bridge. Such is the design's simplicity that villagers can erect it themselves.

It is no temporary solution: these bridges are made to last up to 50 years, and can take the weight of a main battle tank. And even if a new hurricane hits them — and the chances in the Caribbean are sadly not improbable — the pieces can be salvaged and reassembled.

From early Roman times bridges have held an often religious significance. Crossing water to new lands, bridging gulfs, crevasses and other hazards has been an enduring challenge not only to developing cultures but to the finest engineers in every age. For our age, the emphasis is less on the ornamentation of bridges than on their practicality and economic impact. Nothing could have a greater impact on a country such as Honduras, laid low by an act of God, than the restoration of its bridges. Such almost mystical symbolism would be understood by our forebears. We would urge readers to join in this imaginative and humanitarian undertaking.

## Animals' role in medical advances

From Professor Michael G. Stewart

Sir, The hunger strike by the convicted Animal Liberation Front activist, Barry Horne (letters, December 11), see also reports, December 12) obscures the most important aspect of this issue: without the use of animals in medical research many millions of patients would have died from diseases which — fortunately — medical sciences have been able to cure.

The use of animals in research has been essential for most of the important breakthroughs in the 20th century, from the discovery of insulin to research into heart disease, cancer and Alzheimer's disease. To stop the study of animals would have a disastrous effect on such areas.

The UK has the most stringent laws in the world relating to the use of animals (which is to be welcomed). Further restrictions would threaten to drive research (both academic and industrial) abroad, where laws are not as caring for the welfare of animals.

Yours faithfully,  
M. STEWART,  
Head, Department of Biology,  
The Open University,  
Walton Hall,  
Milton Keynes MK7 6AA,  
December 11.

From Mr Cedric Hayes, JP

Sir, Many otherwise law-abiding people are moved to tears and rage at the cruelties inflicted on laboratory animals.

Following a small donation to an animal rights group, I now have several envelopes sitting by me still waiting to be opened. I flinch from so doing, knowing the effect the images will have: they haunt me.

Notwithstanding my years of enforcing the law, I believe I could be driven to extremes, and feel cowardly for not acting.

In my view, Barry Horne and his cohorts are heroes.

Yours faithfully,  
CEDRIC HAYES,  
9 Brooklands House,  
Brooklands Road,  
Sale, Cheshire M33 3QH,  
December 12.

From Mrs Claire Fordham

Sir, Vanessa Bennett's article, "A cause with no blame" (December 9), concentrates on extremists who hope to gain a good end by bad means. However, this cause is just, and we are not all to be tarred with the same brush.

We do our cause no harm by admitting that there have been major advances in medicine where animals were used in experiments to test and perfect drugs, many of which have been of great benefit to humanity.

What are needed now are not death threats or letter bombs, but rational debate and openness from scientists and drug companies about their methods and reasons for experiments; whether they are giving proper consideration to alternative methods of research, such as tissue culture, and if they are fully aware of the difference between animal and human physiology, ignorance of which may invalidate scientific conclusions.

It ill behoves us to point the finger at those who do speak for animals, stand in the rain with placards, and even die for them.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
CLAIRE FORDHAM,  
3 Hill Street,  
Ashby de la Zouch,  
Leicestershire LE65 2LS,  
December 11.

From Mr Nick Drake

Sir, As a committed non-violent campaigner for animal rights and many other issues, I am saddened to see that the perception of "animal rights bad, human rights good" continues to be propagated through the media.

December 10 marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It also saw the anti-vivisection group, Uncape, embark on an ambitious project to have fundamental animal rights placed into an international resolution by the year 2048. The Great Ape Project is currently working to extend the most vital of human rights — the right to life and the right to a life free from torture — to species such as the orang-utan and the bonobo.

It is important to acknowledge that the aims and aspirations of campaigners for animal and human rights are all directed at the same goal — the goal of living and working to improve the society in which we live. The vast majority of people working for animal rights are caring, compassionate and altruistic: like Barry Horne, they empathise with the suffering of animals and cannot rest until it ceases.

Yours sincerely,  
NICK DRAKE,  
139 Wilton Road,  
Southampton SO15 5JS,  
nsd@astro.soton.ac.uk,  
December 11.

Sport letters, page 30

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Peanington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Sinking of the Hood and her right to rest in peace

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, You claim (report, December 9; see also report December 10) that there is a riddle about the causes of the sinking of HMS Hood, and that a Mr David Mearns hopes to photograph the remains in order to find out what the causes were.

With respect, there is no such riddle. After Jutland, in which three British battlecruisers were sunk by the plunging shells of the German High Seas Fleet, it was decided that in all future construction of heavy ships their upper-deck armour should be strengthened. This also applied to Hood which was actually laid down before Jutland, but during the post-war economies of the Twenties, the work was shelved.

A decision to implement it was later taken, but with the rise of German rearmament in the Thirties it was thought unwise to put Hood out of service for the five or six months that the dockyard work would take.

Hood's sinking, then, was a repeat performance of Jutland — one of Bismarck's shells from a distance of 13 miles piercing the upper deck, penetrating to the ship's vitals below the waterline where it touched off the 4-inch magazine which, in turn, touched off the 15-inch magazine, the double explosion breaking the ship in two. This was the conclusion of two Admiralty Boards of Inquiry.

Years later, when the wreck of the Bismarck was photographed sitting upright on the seabed three miles down the giant painted swastikas on the fore and quarter-deck still exuding a faint air of menace, there were no protests from Germany that I can recall about disturbing the graves of war dead. Nor should there be if Mr Mearns can find the money to film the two pieces of the Hood.

But, as the causes of her sinking

have long been established, it would seem a fairly pointless exercise.

Yours etc.  
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,  
Ashdown,  
Avebury, Wiltshire SN8 1FF,  
December 10.

From Major Ned Middleton (ret'd)

Sir, There is a saying in the world of scuba diving: "Take only pictures — leave only bubbles." If only we could be certain these sentiments would be applied to the final resting place of so many gallant sailors, I would give my total support to the HMS Hood Association for allowing the wreck to be photographed. Unfortunately we cannot be certain, and I fear concerns expressed may be well-founded.

Today, far too many of our war graves are being systematically plundered, in British waters and abroad, by scuba-diving souvenir hunters who believe that anything found underwater automatically becomes their property. Three years ago the SS *Thistlegorm* — a British armed merchantman sunk in the Red Sea in 1941 with the loss of five naval ratings and four Merchant Navy sailors — was regarded as the world's number one scuba-diving attraction, but not any more. Today, such is the rate of looting from this magnificent vessel that one can actually hear divers at work underwater from above the surface.

Of course, at a depth of 7,920 feet, HMS Hood can never suffer from such large-scale theft by amateur divers, but how long before the professionals move in? I am familiar with the way in which HMS Hood met her end and I would dearly like to see photographs of the ship as she is today — but that must be it. The safety of the ships of today is not dependent on discovering whether the steel that built HMS Hood was faulty.

Let us keep our mysteries, and in so doing let us leave those who helped to build a better world to rest in peace.

Sincerely yours,  
NED MIDDLETON,  
(Underwater photographer),  
2 Oakdale Road,  
Horne Bay, Kent CT6 6AH,  
December 11.

From Mr Mark Corby

Sir, The Bismarck was not sunk by "relentless bombing and a torpedo strike from HMS Victorious". In fact she was destroyed by the gunfire of HMS Rodney and, to a lesser extent, HMS King George V (Admiral Sir John Tovey, RN) and finished off by a combination of torpedo hits from HMS Dorsetshire and the efforts of her crew to scuttle her.

HMS Victorious certainly played her part, but it was the Swordfish aircraft from HMS Ark Royal that obtained the crucial hit that slowed the Bismarck down sufficiently for Tovey to catch and kill her.

Yours ever,  
MARK CORBY,  
38 Rollscourt Avenue, SE24 0EA.

From Mr Nicolas Wyldbore-Smith

Sir, Mr Mearns, deep sea explorer, says he will not go if it upsets Ted Briggs, the sole living survivor from the Hood's sinking in May 1941.

Surely of greater importance is whether it upsets the relatives of the 1,418 officers and men entombed in her hull. My father was the Flag Officer responsible for Signals and it would certainly upset me.

As a war grave, leave them alone.

Yours faithfully,  
N. H. WYLDBORE-SMITH,  
The Couriers, Clifton Hampden,  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3EL,  
December 10.

## Future for cheetah and its world

From Professor Simon J. Owens

Sir, Your championing of the cheetah, by nominating a project in the Serengeti National Park as one of your Christmas charities (leading article, December 8; see also article December 12), is certainly timely and deserves our full support because, in attempting to save the cheetah, you will help conserve and preserve the many other animals, plants and fungi that live in that fragile ecosystem in the Serengeti. Indeed, we must not forget the plant species on which all animal life depends.

However, conserving biological diversity, of which the cheetah is a part, is not an easy task in an overpopulated world and will succeed only if sustainable solutions to reversing the slide to extinction are found. Certainly eco-tourism in the Serengeti, while creating problems of its own, has helped to maintain diversity there.

Yours etc.  
SIMON J. OWENS  
(Keeper of the Herbarium),  
Royal Botanic Gardens,  
Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AE.  
s.owens@rbgkew.org.uk  
December 8.

## CPS defended

From the Director of Public Prosecutions

Sir, The report of criticisms by Mr Paul Rose, Coroner for the Southern District of Greater London (report, "CPS failing to try criminals," says coroner," December 8), is the culmination of a series of intemperate allegations directed at the CPS in the "heated correspondence" to which your report refers.

The striking feature of that correspondence is the lack of reasoned analysis by the coroner of the evidence which, he contends, should have led to criminal proceedings. In relation to the second of the cases referred to in your article, Mr Rose expressed the view in a letter to the Attorney's Office "that there are five persons involved and it is impossible for this matter to be dealt with properly at an inquest since it may be that one or more of those five persons may be guilty of manslaughter, or that there may be corporate (sic) manslaughter, or indeed that this may be an accidental death".

It would perhaps have added weight to his complaints if there had been some recognition that an adver-

sarial system requires the prosecution to prefer a specific charge against an identifiable individual or individuals and prove it with admissible evidence. Charging everybody and letting the jury sort it out is not an option. The inquest jury in that case returned an open verdict.

We have looked very carefully at all Mr Rose has said. In three of the four cases to which your report refers, the final decision by the CPS was taken after obtaining advice from Treasury Counsel. In each case that advice firmly supported the eventual decision. In one of these cases that course was taken in response to the concerns of the coroner.

As Mr Rose knows, the function of a coroner's inquest is restricted to deciding who the deceased was, and when, where and how he or she died. Parliament, for good reason, has removed the power of an inquest to deal with questions of civil or criminal liability. Mr Rose should leave such matters to those who are legally responsible for them.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID CALVERT-SMITH,  
Director of Public Prosecutions,  
Crown Prosecution Service,  
50 Ludgate Hill, EC4M 7EX,  
December 9.

## Price of publishing

From Mr R. W. Breach

Sir, I recently published, at my own expense, a history of this small Dorset parish, Melbury Abbas.

Scarcely had I paid the printer's bill than a demand for six copies arrived: the British Library, the Libraries of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the Library of Trinity College Dublin and two National Libraries, of Scotland and of Wales, all wanted a copy. No payment was offered either for the book or for the postage.

The majesty of the law, enshrined in the Copyright Act of 1911, backed up this iniquitous and arbitrary assault on my property.

What, pray, are the librarians of these august collections going to do with my parochial history?

Yours faithfully,  
R. W. BREACH,  
Ivy Paddock,  
Melbury Abbas,  
Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0DW,  
December 10.

## Millennium books

From the Secretary of Poems on the Underground

Sir, I agree that Tyndale's Bible should be commemorated in millennium celebrations (letter, December 10), and would add other early treasures of English literature, such as the Old English riddles preserved in the *Exeter Book*, and the British Library copy of *Beowulf*, both dated c1000.

We plan to offer extracts from these and other works (with newly commissioned translations where appropriate) to two million daily Tube travellers in our expanded programme, "1,000 Years of Poetry in English", beginning in June 1999 and continuing at intervals through the year 2000.

We welcome suggestions from the public.

Yours sincerely,  
JUDITH CHERNAIK,  
Secretary,  
Poems on the Underground,  
124 Mansfield Road, NW3 2JB,  
December 11.

## Cost of Christmas

From Mr Neil Murray

Sir, My younger brother is indeed correct when he recalls how in our household Christmas wrapping paper was saved and re-used from year to year (letter, December 2).

What he omits to mention was the chaos this caused when one received a gift bearing the legend "To Alex from Neil", or "From Mum to Alex", or "From Dad to Gilly", or half a dozen similar dedications, nor all of which had been crossed out.

I vividly remember, at the age of eight or thereabouts, opening one such labelled Christmas present, to be confronted by a packet of pipe cleaners (supposedly destined for Father).

Yours faithfully,  
NEIL MURRAY,  
6 Meadow Road,  
Sutton, Surrey SM1 4NF.  
neil.anemurray@btinternet.com  
December 2.

From Major-General J. P. Crowley

Sir, At our Christmases in the late Twenties it was the custom of a much loved, but very frugal, maiden aunt to circulate among the large family gathering, at the hour when presents were being given and received, to enjoin us all not only to fold the wrapping paper tidily for next year, but also to tie up the string (long before the days when Sellotape ruined everything) in neat bundles and — most important of all — to make sure that all labels were handed back to the donors ready for re-use.

My brother and I, as two small boys, were not always as observant of this practice as we should have been, but we were undoubtedly swayed towards compliance because the aunt in question, despite her frugality, was notably generous and if we did well we sometimes got 5/- (25p) — a windfall of riches in those far-off days.

Yours faithfully,  
JOE CROWDY,  
Pepperdon Mine,  
Lusitagh,  
Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 9SN,  
December 9.

From Mrs Kate Wilson

Sir, I can reassure Mr Murray that good value can still be achieved at under £42 per present. My daughter, when aged six in 1994, was able to undertake all her Christmas shopping with her £1 coin.

She bought ballpoint pens for her father (21p), a bath oil for me (17p) and a plastic toy for her brother (20p). She was delighted, this I left her 30p "to get something really good for myself". You can't say fairer than that.

Yours faithfully,  
KATE WILSON,  
5 Avenue Kieber,  
78110 Le Vesinet, France,  
December 7.

From Mrs Christine Edgar

Sir, A cherished memory for me is hearing my two eldest sons exhorting their younger brother "to buy Mum and Dad a proper present, not a Blue Peter one".

Ah, but I still have the Blue Peter ones.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTINE EDGAR,  
Bromley,  
Forward Green,  
Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5EU,  
December 5.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
December 12: The Prince Edward, Patron, this evening attended The Royal Exchange Theatre Company's *Royal Gala Opening*, followed by a performance of "Hindie Wakes" at the Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square, Manchester, and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
December 13: The Duke of Kent, President, The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, this afternoon attended a Carol Service at St Clement Danes Church, The Strand, London. **THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
December 13: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this evening attended the Crisis Carol Service at Southwark Cathedral, London.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Nouradams (Michel de Nouradams), astrologer, Saint-Nicolas, 1930; King George VI, reigned 1936-52, 1952; Cottage, Sandringham, 1998.

**DEATHS:** Sir John Oldcastle, alleged heretic, "hung and burnt hanging", London, 1417; King James V of Scotland, reigned 1513-42, Falkland, Fife, 1542; Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, composer, Hamburg, 1788; George Washington, 1789-97, Washington, 1799; Albert Prince Consort, Windsor Castle, 1861; Stanley Baldwin, 1st Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, Prime Minister 1923-24, 1924-29 and 1935-37, Aylesbury, Lancashire, 1947; Will Fyfe, character comedian, St Andrews, 1947; Sir Stanley Spencer, painter, Taplow, Buckinghamshire, 1959.

Professor Max Planck revealed his quantum theory, 1901.  
Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole, 1911.

**4 King's Bench Walk**  
The Chambers of Nicholas Jarman, QC, held a dinner on Saturday at The Ivy, London WC2. Judge Slack was the guest of honour.

**Press Complaints Commission**  
Mr Paul Dacre, Editor of *The Daily Mail*, has been appointed a member of the Press Complaints Commission.

**Josca's School**  
Mr Christopher Davies has been appointed Headmaster of Josca's School, in succession to Mr Antony Savin who will be retiring in the summer of 1999 after thirty-six years of distinguished service. Mr Davies is at present a housemaster at Highgate School, Josca's School has merged with Abington School to form a new Foundation for the education of boys aged 4 to 18 years.

## Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire at 12.30, and will visit Collingwood College, Kingston Road, Camberley, Surrey, at 2.30. The Princess Royal, patron, Northern Lighthouse Board, will attend a management committee meeting at 84 George Street, Edinburgh, at 10.50; and, as patron, Sports Writers Association of Great Britain, will attend their golden jubilee ball at the London Hilton on Park Lane at 6.20.

The Duchess of Gloucester, patron, RSAS AgeCare, will present the Princess Alexandra and Alzheimer's Disease Society Dementia care training award 1998 at *Drapers' Hall* at 6.20.

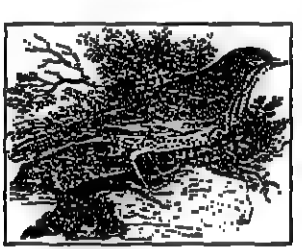
The Duke of Kent, as president, will visit Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire, at 11.30. Princess Alexandra, patron, will attend a carol concert in aid of Home-Start UK at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London SW1, at 6.

## Birthdays today

Captain the Hon Sir Nicholas Beaumont, 69; General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, 86; the Right Rev J.B.R. Grindrod, former Archbishop of Brisbane and Primate of Australia, 79; Sir Anthony Kershaw, former MP, 83; Miss Barbara Leigh-Hunt, actress, 63; Sir Malcolm McIntosh, civil servant, 53; Mr C.R. Morris, former MP, 72; Sir John Osborn, former MP, 76; Mr Michael Owen, footballer, 19; Dame Ruth Raiton, founder, National Youth Orchestra, 83; Mr Stan Smith, former tennis player, 52; Sir Simon Tompkins, former Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, 77; Miss Rosalyn Turek, conductor, 84.

## Nature notes

A few thrushes are singing on mild mornings, making a claim in advance to a nesting territory for next spring. Mistle thrushes have a wild, swirling song, usually delivered from the highest branch of a tree. Song thrushes take a slightly lower perch, and have a song of clear, repeated notes, interspersed with more formalist snatches. Great tits are also beginning to sing again. Sparrow hawks are hunting through the woods and up and down the hedges. Winter suits them, since they can see small birds more easily on the bare twigs, and in hard weather their prey may be weaker and slower to get away. Around the coast there are a number of gull colonies, which are large, ivory birds that breed in the Arctic. They may have



The mistle thrush

followed Atlantic fishing boats down to Britain. On sycamore trees, many of the winged seeds still cling to the branches, most of them now broken and ragged. The long, orange-brown seeds, or keys, hanging on the ash trees are in better condition and may not fall until next summer. On roadside verges, dandelion, yarrow and white dead-nettle can still be found in flower. DJM



Michael Heseltine's daughter Annabel and Peter Butler, a surgeon, having their wedding blessed at Thonford church, Northamptonshire, on Saturday. The couple, both 35, married last month at a register office in Chelsea

## The Sovereign's Parade

The Prince of Wales represented the Queen at the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on December 11.

The following have been granted commissions in the regiments and corps shown, having successfully completed Commissioning Course No 981. The Sword of Honour was won by Junior Under Officer A.R. Bird and The Queen's Medal was won by Officer Cadet P.R. Beaves.

CA Adcock, REME, Brigshaw HS, Leeds; D.R. Allen, PWRR, Wimbledon College; J.B. Anderson, AAC, Gordonstoun School; G.J. Angella, Hldrs, Granovon GS; M.R. Arnold, REME, Welbeck College; C.A. Ather, AGC (PRO), Durham School; B.A. Ather, RLC, Haberdashers' Aske's School; M.R. Baker, AGC (ETS), The Clere School, Newbury; N.P. Baker, PWO, Bletley GS; G.M. Barry, Kings, Kings School, Macclesfield; P.A. Batcher, RA, Felsted School; M.J. Beaman, D and D, Braintree School; Braintree P. Beaman, RA, Leek HS; P. Beaves, RTR, Boxmoor GS; A.J. Bird, RLC, Harrogate GS; A.R. Bird, AAC, Dean Close School; L.M. Bolton, RA, Glenalmond College; M.T. Booker, R Signals, Colchester; C.W. Boswell, D and D, Grassano School, Sweden; S.E. Botham, Staffords, Pangbourne College; J.C. Bracey, RE, Bedford Modern School; C.J. Brass, RAMC, Driffield School; T.D. Brett, Int Corps, Repton School; J.L. Brown, RLC, Hipperholme GS, Halifax; N.J.L. Brown, RHF, Glasgow Academy; E.J. Bruce, REME, Grosvenor School, Belfast; D.M. Buckley, RA, Amersham International School; L.K. Bulley, AGC (PRO), Fowey School.

M.J. Canham, RE, Kings School, Gloucester; S.D. Canham, RLC, Ashdown HS; D. Cather, W/L, Newcastle RGS; J.W. Cato, RA, Brynau School; I.G. Chapman, RLC, Broughton HS; S.M. Chapman, RE, Othello CS, Swansea; G.J.P. Chisholm, RLC, Bedford School; R.A.H. Clarke, RLC, Cardinal Pole School, London; C.T. Clarke, LD, Wellington College; J.G.P. Concannon, AGC (SPS), Marr College; S.G. Cooke, RLC, Welbeck College; O.T.B. Courage, R Signals, St Barnabas School, Newbury; S.J.D. Covey-Crump, R Signals, Pater GS; C. Cowan, RLC, Bede School; W.B.P. Cramer, D and D, Stoughton College; B.D. Crookes, RA, Crookes School; V.R.T. Crow, R Irish, Carter HS, Pinner; T. Cuthill, AAC, Brynau School; S.M. Davies, D and D, Thornhill School, Weymouth; P.J. Dewhurst, SG, Salesian College, Farnborough; J.F.F. Diamond, RA, Brixham School; J.G. A. Dove-Dixon, REME, Castle School, Taunton; R. Dunlop, AAC, St George's School, Vancouver; S.J.W. Dyson, R Irish (HSFT), Malvern Coll.

W.L. Eden, RGBWR, Pater GS; C.J. Elsegood, RE, Guiseley School, Leeds; D.H. Enkisen, AAC, Newcastle RGS; J.D. Evenden, L. Exeter School; N.L. Fairweather, Int Corps, Ipswich School; J.V. Fallon, AGC (SPS), Marston HS, Liverpool; T.J. Fildes, RLC, Kent Coll, Tunbridge Wells; C.F. Fisher, RGL, Marlborough Coll; J.R.C. Fisher, RTR, Kings School, Brunz; J. Flett, REME, Brechin HS, Brechin; S.M. Ford, AGC (SPS), Brunz Upper School, Mansfield; A.A. Garrow, RE, St Paul's School; J.R. Gayner, RGL, Redley College; C. Gert, RA, Welbeck Coll; J.M. Gilhepy, RTR, Shaftesbury School; C.R.P. Ginn, WFR, Malvern Coll; A.M. Godfrey, RWF, Lyle Canadian in France; D.C. Graves, KORBR, Welbeck Coll; P.E.K. Greening, R Irish (HSFT), Omagh Academy; B.N.A. Grey, KRFH, Wellington Coll.

J.M. Hanlon, Scots DG, Dean Close School; D.A. Haslewood, R Signals, Welbeck Coll; R.L. Hayes, RLC, Millfield School; G.A. Haywood, RLC, Torquay Boys GS; A.D. Heap, RLC, Othello CS, Swansea; L.P. Hendry, RLC, St Edmund's School; A.P. Henning, AGC (ETS), Bangor GS; K.A. Heppinstall, RLC, John Bransford School, Witham; M.J. Hilton, RLC, Doris Albion School, Newcastle; J. Hoban, RLC, St Bede's RC CS, Durham; M.J. Hodges, RA, Bromsgrove School; C.M. Holdstock, REME, Lincoln Christ's Hospital; M.B. Horn, REME, Welbeck Coll; B.S. Horne, QRL, Pinetown Coll, Rugby; A.J. Howell, RA, Whitby Bay HS; D.K. Hunter, RE, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane; G.S. James, WGL, Halesbury College; A.L.S. Jones, REME, Stamford School; S.J. Jones, RE, Budmouth School, Weymouth; S.N. Kemp, RLC, Lochgillichead HS; C. Kerr-Nagy, Para, London Orationary School; G.J. Kerr, RE, Gordonstoun School; D.B. G. Kinsella-Bryan, RGL, Sherborne School; A.C. Laine, Para, Pater Coll; B.A. Lawes, WGL, Welbeck Coll; A.J. Lawson, R Signals, Cullis Academy, Aberdeen; N.J. Lilly, AAC, The Woodlands School; E.A. Lindsay, AGC (PRO), Bradford GS; A.R. Loudon, RLC, Trinity School, Northampton; R.S. Lucas, Scots DG, Rugby School; C. Luddington, RE, Bedford Modern School; J.A. Lyons, R Signals, All Saints School, Sheffield; W.N. Mac, SG, Laymer Upper School; I.H. MacNeil, RA, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane; G.H. Malec, RA, St Edward's School, Oxford; A.T. Mardia, QRL, Kings School, Canterbury; J.D.M. Matheson, AAC, Abington School; R. Mullins, RLC, Birkenhead School; J.N. Mayne, R Signals, Wells Cathedral School; M. McClellan, QRL, Rugby School; M.U. Melhorn, R Irish (HSFT), Bishop Wordsworth's School; N.J.M. Melsan, QRL, Forest School; A.H.L. Michael, KRFH, Stone School; R.G. Millbank, RE, Welbeck College; T.J. Miller, RLC, Welbeck College; A.P. Milne, AAC, Plymouth College; S.P. Morgan, Para, Waltham Toll Bar School; M.J. Mudd, QRL, Uppingham School; C. Mullin, Int Corps, Belmont Academy, Ayr.

A.W. Newby Grant, Para, The Leys School; L.A. Nicholson, AGC, Goldolphin School; J.D. Nicks, R Signals, Hales School, Plymouth; J.D. Olsen, JG, Sherborne School; R.A. Osborn, QRL, Westfield CS, Yeovil; R.J. Palfrey, DWR, Wellington School; J.G.K. Palmer, RA, Churches College; H.J. Parsons, AGC (SPS), The Castle School, Taunton; P.J. Paxton, RGBWR, Forest Boys School, Wokingham; M.R. Penney, RA, Reeds School, Plymouth; RGR, Downside School; J.S. Press, Chesham, Bishop of Hereford School; K.M. Price, DWR, Watershead College, Zimbabwe; S.E.J. Price, RA, Ballyclare GS; A.C. Punter, RLC, Welbeck College; T.P. Rawlinson, WFR, Old Swinford Hospital School; E.J.W. Rees, R Irish, Cambell College, Belfast; D. Rees, AGC (ETS), RLC, mouth School; B.L. Richardson, RA, Crypt GS, Gloucester; O.F. Richardson, RA, Sherborne School; I.G. Rodger, R Signals, Roundwood School, Harpenden.

J.W. Scott Kerr, IG, Lancing College; J.E. Seaman, QLR, St George's School, Harpenden; K.A. Selley, RE, Queen Anne HS, Dundermole; B.D. Sheppard, RE, Chichester HS; R.C. Simpson, QRL, Kingston GS; G.P. Smith, R Irish (HSFT), Bangor GS; M.J.E. Smith, RE, Bayside CS, Gibraltar; T.L. Smith, RLC, St Thomas Picot School; J.L. Soloy, RWR, Campden School, Harpenden; M.A. Southern, R Signals, Dame Allan School; A.J. Spaul, RLC, Brimshaw Green School; D.P. Spencer, R Signals, Welbeck College; S.N.J. Stacey, Gren Gds, Wellington College; T.G. Steel, RE, Bedford School; A.F. Steele, A and SH, Dollar Academy; J.G. E. Steinhilber, QDC, Raskley College; A.C. Stirling, AAC, St Boniface's College, Plymouth; L. Sutton, AAC, Lytle Franco Belge, Brussels; A.K. Swamy, QLR, Hermitage Academy, Helesburgh; D.M.H. Sweny, PWR, King's School, Canterbury.

K.D. Taaffe, RWR, Hardensham School, Chippinghams; A.J. Tarrant, AGC (SPS), Queen Elizabeth GS, Ashbourne; M.J. Taylor, RAMC, Arbroath HS; H.J. Thompson, AGC (SPS), Outwood Grange School; W.M. Toth, AGC (ETS), Wellington School; A.A.R. Townsend, PWO, The Grange School, Bradford; R.W. Travers, R Irish (HSFT), Austerlitz School, Auckland, New Zealand; E.A. Uning, RE, Chase Terrace HS, Lechfield; P. Waddell, R Signals, Duke of York's RMS; D.H. Walker, Cold Gds, Wellington College; C.H. Wanklyn, L. Shrewsbury School; C.T.J. Wasiewski, RE, Wellington School; M.C.M. Webb, RA, The Skinners School, Tunbridge; D. Webster, RE, Heydon School; J.R. West, RE, Dean Close School; E.A.H. Whitlaw, RE, Pater GS, Chesham; K.M. Wilden, AGC (ETS), St John Rigby School; A.M. Williams, RE, St. Munro's HS, Falkirk; R.T. Williams, Scots DG, Glenalmond College; P.N. Woolley, AGC (SPS), Wells Cathedral School; D.C. Wright, Para, Nottingham HS; K.A. Wyer, RA, Dean Close School; A.C. Youlton, RA, Mount St Mary's Coll.

The following overseas cadets also passed out with a view to being commissioned in the Armed Forces of their countries:

**BAHRAIN:** Sheikh Nasser Khalifa Al Khalifa, Sheikh Nasser Khalifa Al Khalifa, Rashid Abdulla Al Khalifa.

**BARBADOS:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**BOTSWANA:** Tshabane Peter Mafuwe.

**CZECH REPUBLIC:** David Franta.

**FINLAND:** Jukka Peltola.

**FRANCE:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Ghana:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**India:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Kenya:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Malaysia:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Malta:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Marshall Islands:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Mauritius:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Nepal:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Nigeria:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Pakistan:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Qatar:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Romania:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Saudi Arabia:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Senegal:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Singapore:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**South Africa:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Spain:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Sri Lanka:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Switzerland:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Tanzania:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Thailand:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Togo:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Tunisia:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Uganda:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Ukraine:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**United States:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Yemen:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Zambia:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

**Zimbabwe:** Cedric Sandfield Fretwell.

## Marriages

**Mr X. Riviere**  
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, of Mr Xavier Riviere, elder son of M and Mme Michel Riviere, of Lyon, France, to Miss Deborah Cornhill, elder daughter of Mr George Cornhill, of Brougham, Leicestershire, and of Lady Marshall, of Slindon, West Sussex, and step-daughter of Mrs George Cornhill, of St Michael's, London. The Very Rev John Treadwell, Dean of Chichester, officiated, assisted by Pere Perrot of Lyon.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, M Benjamin Riviere, was best man.

A reception was held at the House of Lords, by courtesy of Baroness Knight of Collingtree, and the honeymoon is being spent in Venice.

**Mr G.F. Ruddell**  
and **Miss C.S.E. Rimer**  
The marriage took place on Saturday in the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, of Mr Geoffrey Ruddell, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Ruddell, of Ruckington, Nottinghamshire, to Miss Catherine Rimer, only daughter of Sir Colin and Lady Rimer, of Beckenham, Kent. The Rev Dr Martin Dudley and the Rev Dr David Pym, godfather of the bridegroom, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Dr Claire Thorne and Dr Hilary Barsey. Mr Andrew Ansey was best man.

A reception was held in the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

**Captain G.E. Bennett**  
and **Miss H.M. Johns**  
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Clement Danes, Strand, London, of Captain Guy Bennett, son of Mr and Mrs Harry Bennett, of Saddleworth, Greater Manchester, to Miss Harriet Johns, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Johns.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mr and Mrs John Johns, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

**Mr G.A. Eamon**  
and **Miss H.E. Brown**  
The engagement is announced between Gerard, son of Mr and Mrs Sean Eamon, of Cork, and Helen, daughter of Mr Peter Brown and the late Mrs Gillian Brown, of Chippinghams, Surrey.

**Mr W.A.M. Glassey**  
and **Miss L.C. Norvion**  
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Glassey, of New Zealand, and Lucia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Norvion, of Hampstead, London.

**Mr S.W. O'Loughlin**  
and **Miss L.A. Alexander**  
The engagement is announced between Seamus William, son of Mr and Mrs Francis O'Loughlin, of Haverhill, Hertfordshire, and Louisa, daughter of Mr George Alexander, of Sumbury-on-Thames, Middlesex.

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and **Miss L.A. Alexander**  
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and **Miss L.A. Alexander**  
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er daughter of Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard and Lady Johns, of Princes Gate, London. The Ven Robin Turner and the Rev David Mackenzie officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Rebecca Talbot Rice, Miss Sophie Clowes, Miss Sarah Breton, Miss Victoria Miller and Miss Annabel Deuchar. Major Michael Turner was best man.

A reception was held at Seaford House, Belgrave Square, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

**Conte P. Pietromarchi**  
and **Miss E.J. Pike**  
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Bentley, Hampshire, of Conte Pietro Pietromarchi, elder son of L'Ambasciatore ad Ateene Conte Enrico Pietromarchi and MD Contessa Loredana Pietromarchi Marzullo Del Majno, to Miss Emma Pike, youngest daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir Hew and Lady Pike of Bentley. The Ven Graham Roblin and the Rev James M. Campbell officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Eliza Masterton, Sophie Masterton, Rosa Mayfield and Jack Contro. Mr Andrea Pietromarchi was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

**Mr R. Capper**  
and **Miss M. Short**  
The marriage took place in Glasgow, on December 1, 1998, of Mr Richard Capper and Mrs Joan Short.

**Mr K.N. Miles**  
and **Mrs M. Jolowicz**  
The marriage took place quietly in the parish church of St Andrew, December 12, of Mrs Beth (Beryl) Jolowicz and Mr Kenneth Miles.

The bride was given in marriage by her son Mr Kingsley Jolowicz. Mr Jonathan de Jager was best man to his grandfather.

**Mr A.B. Jay**  
and **Miss C.M. Furman**  
The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Jay, of Chelsea, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jean Furman, of Little France, France.

**Mr A.D. Pugh**  
and **Miss R.L. Whyte**  
The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of Colonel Oliver Pugh, of East Horsley, Surrey, and of the late Mrs Ann Pugh, and Rosalyn, daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Whyte, of Haverly, Surrey.

**Mr W.D. Wiggins**  
and **Miss C.J. Chibwe**  
The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Sir Jerry Wiggins, of Abingdon, Somerset, and Mrs Timothy Dore-Harris, of St Peter, Port, Guernsey, and daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Whyte, of Haverly, Surrey.

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BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

## DEATHS

**ETHINGTON-EMITH**  
Juliet, Much loved, died on December 11, 1998, peacefully at home in Brimsford, Bedfordshire. Elizabeth, daughter of Giles and Stephanie, daughter of G. and S. Elington. Burial at Brimsford on December 14, 1998, at 11.00 am. Family and friends are invited to attend the funeral service at 11.00 am on December 14, 1998, at Brimsford. Burial at Brimsford on December 14, 1998, at 11.00 am. Family and friends are invited to attend the funeral service at 11.00 am on December 14, 1998, at Brimsford.

## BIRTHS

**ADOLPH** - On November 30, to Emma and Manu,



## OBITUARIES

## LORD GRADE

Lord Grade, film and television producer, died yesterday aged 91. He was born on December 25, 1906.

For almost half a century Lew Grade was one of the most colourful and influential figures in British popular entertainment. The eldest of three sons of a Russian Jewish family who emigrated to Britain before the First World War, he started in showbusiness as a dancer, built up the biggest theatrical agency in the country, became probably the most powerful voice in commercial television; and, long after lesser men might have retired, took up a new career as a film producer.

His philosophy was the simple one of giving people what they liked. "I know what the public want because I am one of them," he once said. "I am just an ordinary man with ordinary tastes." He looked to the traditional family audience and deplored the increasing prevalence in film and television of sex, violence and bad language. His shows might be criticised as intellectually underestimating, but he insisted that his job was to entertain and not to preach. His instinct for what made a hit show was rarely wrong.

He was the epitome of the larger-than-life showbusiness tycoon, a short, round, ebullient man who smoked huge cigars and talked in superlatives. Like the American film producer Sam Goldwyn, he was the source of countless anecdotes and sayings. Corrected by an aide for attributing Ibsen's play *The Master Builder* to Shakespeare, he is said to have retorted: "Well, it's all costume, isn't it?" And he was once quoted as dismissing a television arts programme with the words: "That must be culture; it certainly isn't entertainment." Such stories were sometimes apocryphal, no doubt, but Grade — like Goldwyn — seemed to relish his reputation as an unabashed philistine, and saw no great need to set the record straight.

He was very much a hands-on entrepreneur, renowned for his ability to take a quick decision and

see it through. He had virtually no interests apart from his work and his family, and never took holidays. When he started his agency, he decided to get up at five in the morning to cram more hours into the working day, and the habit stayed with him. He was usually at his office desk by seven, and would spend his evenings making business calls from home.

He was born Louis Winogradsky in the Ukrainian town of Tokmak. His father was an actor and cinema owner and his mother, who lived into her nineties, was also on the stage before her marriage. In 1912 the family left Russia and settled in the East End of London. Lew attended Rochelle Street School in Shoreditch but left at 14 to help his father in the local garment industry.

To escape the rag-trade drudgery of pressing trousers at 12 shillings a week, he learnt the Charleston, the dance craze that swept Britain in the early 1920s. He was good enough to win a competition at the Albert Hall organised by the impresario C.B. Cochran. On the strength of this he billed himself as the "World Champion Charleston Dancer", and for the next ten years he made his living as a dancing professional.

Appearing on variety bills, he often found himself spotting talent and recommending acts to agents. Eventually, he decided to become an agent himself, going into partnership first with Joe Collins, the father of the actress Joan and the novelist Jackie. In 1943 he started a new agency with his brother Leslie, and the combination of Lew's flair for gauging public taste and Leslie's shrewd financial brain helped to make it the biggest in the country. The Grades were responsible for bringing to Britain such American stars as Bob Hope and Jack Benny, and as the business flourished they expanded into theatres and cinemas.

The arrival of commercial television in 1955 presented a fresh challenge. Lew Grade decided to take a £5,000 stake in the Birmingham-based company Associated Television (ATV). At the time he



Grade: from a poor Russian immigrant family in London's East End, he rose to become the epitome of the showbusiness tycoon

had no thought of giving up his agency, but ATV got off to a shaky start, and he decided his interests would be better served if he joined the company full-time as deputy to the managing director, Val Parnell.

It was through television that he made his public reputation, and for some two decades he was one of the most powerful men in the medium. He succeeded Parnell as head of ATV in 1962 and, with Leslie still running Britain's biggest agency, and the third Grade brother — Bernard (later Lord Delfont) — established as the leading West End theatre impresario, the family

exercised a remarkable grip on British showbusiness. It was the classic rags-to-riches story, though the concentration of power — dubbed the "Gradopoly" — was not without its critics. (The family influence was to be maintained by the next generation, too, with Leslie's son Michael progressing through the upper reaches of London Weekend Television and the BBC to become chief executive of Channel 4.)

At ATV the characteristic Grade fare included adventure series such as *The Persuaders* and *The Saint*, the soap opera *Crossroads*, and

variety spectacles such as *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*. Such programmes might have been dismissed as low-brow pap by some critics, but they were efficiently made, and they found a ready audience, not only in Britain but in the United States and other foreign markets where they earned ATV more than £100 million.

Grade's brilliant salesmanship won ATV two Queen's Awards for export, and it was for services to export that he was knighted in 1969. "I have sold everything we produce," he remarked, "except for the weather forecast and the Epilogue."

Grade was later responsible for setting up lavish television biographies of Moses, with Charlton Heston, and *Jesus of Nazareth*, being quick to point out that the latter was another Jewish boy whose birthday he was privileged to share. And, as if to disarm his highbrow critics, he brought to the small screen several productions by the National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company.

During the 1970s, with the American networks less inclined to buy foreign television programmes, Grade turned increasingly to international film production. Optimistic

as ever, he set up a US distribution company and announced an ambitious programme of films. But apart from *The Return of the Pink Panther* and a big-screen version of his great television hit *The Muppetts*, few were hugely successful; by modern Hollywood standards, Grade's taste now seemed old-fashioned. A \$35 million blockbuster, *Raise the Titanic*, was a box-office disaster. "It would have been cheaper to lower the Atlantic," Grade observed.

Though forced to retrench, he was cheerfully unrepentant. A happier film venture was *On Golden Pond*, which proved internationally popular and won Oscars for its veteran stars, Katherine Hepburn and (in his last film role) Henry Fonda. Grade also backed *Sophie's Choice*, which produced an Oscar-winning performance from Meryl Streep.

Boardroom upheavals at his Associated Communications Corporation in 1981 seemed not to have weakened significantly Grade's hold on an entertainment empire which included not only ATV and Elstree film studios but Pye Records, the Beatles' song company, eight London theatres and the Classic Cinema chain. But in the following year control of ACC passed to the Australian entrepreneur Robert Holmes à Court, and amid some bitterness Grade was eased out.

He insisted, however, that he had no thought of retiring before the year 2000, and promptly joined the American film and television group Embassy. In 1985 he set up a new venture, The Grade Company.

Grade was created a life peer in Harold Wilson's Resignation Honours List in 1976. His boisterous and good-humoured autobiography *Still Dancing* appeared in 1987. As well as a record of his business career, it was an affectionate tribute to his wife, the former singer Kathleen Moody, whom he married in 1942. She survives him with their son, Paul, who followed him into the family business.

## MICHAEL HARMER

Michael Harmer, FRCS, surgeon, died on November 11 aged 86. He was born on July 6, 1912.

JUST over two years ago, Michael Harmer saw the unveiling of a plaque in the Beloevsky-Belozersky Palace in St Petersburg, where the Anglo-Russian Hospital was established in 1915. This ceremony was a gesture of sympathy from the British who, unable to provide military support for the Russian Army on the Eastern Front, set up the hospital by private subscription to treat the Russian wounded.

For Harmer, whose father was senior surgeon at the hospital in 1915-16, the unveiling marked the successful end of a 12-year campaign, which involved him, among many other things, in writing a book on *The Forgotten Hospital* (1981), so called because this noble enterprise was not even mentioned in the official *Medical History of the Great War*.

For the last few years of his life, Harmer was in poor health; but, rather than miss the unveiling, he travelled to St Petersburg with his wife and daughter, carrying a list of his numerous ailments in Russian, together with the appropriate medications and contact numbers. The whole project attests to his enterprise, pertinacity, courage and family feeling.

Michael Hedley Harmer was born in London and educated at Marlborough and King's College, Cambridge. His father, Dorey Harmer, was one of the most distinguished laryngologists of his day, and his mother was a noted soprano. He studied at Bart's and, after serving as a surgical specialist with the RAFVR from 1943 to 1946, went to the Westminster Hospital as senior surgical registrar.

He became a consultant at the Royal Marsden, and in 1948 was appointed assistant surgeon at Paddington Green Children's Hospital. When "the Green" was threatened with closure, he played a leading role in a vigorous campaign which helped to prolong its life by nearly 40 years.

Harmer, proud to be "a general surgeon", was known for his swift



Harmer: surgeon, mountaineer and enthusiastic campaigner

diagnostic skills and meticulous surgery; and, long before it became commonplace for visiting patients before and after an operation, explaining what was involved.

He was also a superb committee man, notably serving Le Union Internationale Contre le Cancer from 1953 to 1988. This body aimed to evolve a terminology common to both surgeons and physicians for describing cancers, and Harmer was largely responsible for its pocketbook for clinicians. His other publications included lives of two fellow surgeons, Lord Moynihan and Sir Geoffrey Keynes; and, as co-editor, the 19th edition of *Ross and Carless*, the oldest standard textbook of surgery in England.

Harmer retired early at 60, disaffected at the over-specialisation and proliferating bureaucracy of the NHS. At Grafton, West Sussex, he and his wife immersed

themselves in village life. Aside from the Anglo-Russian Hospital, commonplaces for visiting patients before and after an operation, explaining what was involved.

As well as writing his memoirs, he sustained lively correspondences with his many friends, on topics ranging from the iniquities of modern art to the joys of music, literature and mountaineering. He had himself conquered some of the world's great peaks, including — three times — the Matterhorn. Less than a month before his death, accompanied by his son and grandson, he attended the annual dinner of the Snark Club, which he and nine other medical students — all fervent admirers of Lewis Carroll — had founded at Cambridge in 1924.

He is survived by his wife Bridget, whom he married in 1939, and by their son and daughter.

## AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR BRENDAN JACKSON

Air Chief Marshal Sir Brendan Jackson, GCB, former Air Member for Supply and Organisation, died from motor neurone disease on November 19 aged 63. He was born on August 23, 1935.

AS ONE of the most senior members of the Air Board between 1988 and 1993, Benny Jackson was a central figure in the debate over privatisation within the RAF. Widely regarded as one of the cleverest of his Service generation, he was strong enough to take on those politicians and civil servants doctrinally committed to contracting everything out.

Yet he was by no means opposed to the policy on principle. Dedicated to eliminating waste, he achieved a great deal himself by pruning the RAF's organisation and putting a number of functions out to tender.

But Jackson also saw the dangers of cutting too deeply and damaging the RAF's "core capability". The Gulf War, in which Britain fought during his five years at the top, demonstrated the need for the Service to be self-sufficient in times of crisis. There was also a fear of weakening the RAF's *esprit de corps* by importing civilian contractors in place of Service personnel — a consequence already perceived in Support Command. Leanness was not synonymous with fitness.

Jackson did not always win the day. He tried to oppose the scheme to centralise tri-service helicopter maintenance under a single agency at Yeovil, but in the end had to concede defeat. However, he had the intellect and was tough enough to slow down the pace of change when he thought it necessary, insisting upon a more pragmatic approach.

Brendan James Jackson was born in London, the son of an Irish mother and Scottish father, an estate manager who at one time worked at Chawwell for Winston Churchill. The family later moved to Sussex where his father died, leaving him to be brought up by his mother.

He went to Chichester High



Jackson: improved efficiency while resisting wholesale privatisation

School, where he soon showed a gift for languages and applied for a place at Oxford to read German. Vexed over being rejected, he thought he might try something more adventurous and chose to read Japanese instead at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University.

On graduating, he offered himself to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, to work in its Tokyo office. Once more he was turned down. While a student, however, he had joined the London University Air Squadron and learnt to fly. So in 1956 he joined the RAF.

Qualifying as a bomber pilot, he was first posted to Laarbruch in West Germany, with a Canberra photo-reconnaissance squadron. From there he moved to Wittering, Northamptonshire, as co-pilot in a Victor V-bomber squadron at the height of the Cold War.

Jackson nearly lost his life when the Handley Page Victor in which he was flying, as one of a six-man crew, ran into trouble soon after take-off, when a loud detonation was heard from one of the wings. The pilot, suspecting an engine fault, put the aircraft into a steep climb so that the crew in the rear, who, unlike the pilot and co-pilot did not have ejection seats, could bale out.

But the plane then began to vibrate and became uncontrollable. Shouting to the pilot that it was just about to stall, Jackson tried to seize the controls — only for the pilot beside him to grab them back, refusing to believe him. In breach of regulations, taking the law into his own hands, Jackson ejected. Seconds later the plane stalled and crashed, killing all those snail on board.

Jackson next led a squadron of

Canberras in Malta before becoming personal staff officer to the chief of staff of the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force in Germany from 1969 to 1971. After flying B52 bombers on an exchange posting to the United States, he became personal staff officer to the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Humphrey, 1974-76. He went on to take charge of RAF Marham, a Victor tanker base.

It was as a staff officer, however, that Jackson was to make his mark. Cast in the responsible role of director of plans, he earned the title of "the man with the golden pen" — reflecting his skill at reducing complex data into readable, lucid prose.

His performance helped to earn him promotion to air vice-marshal and the job of assistant chief of staff (policy) at Nato's military headquarters. At a time of historic movement on arms control and redeployment, he was a highly regarded aide and adviser of the Supreme Allied Commander, General Bernard Rogers, especially on nuclear issues.

In 1986 he became the deputy commander-in-chief of RAF Strike Command and two years later moved into his last posting, as Air Member for Staff and Organisation on the RAF Board. But, shortly before he retired five years ago, Jackson started to experience the first symptoms of what was to be diagnosed as motor neurone disease.

Benny Jackson's strength lay not only in his intellect, which enabled him to hold his own in matters of military theology, but in the wide range of his interests. These included the arts and languages. He qualified as an interpreter in German. He never thumped the table or raised his voice, but won his battles by rational argument and persistence. His refusal to let anything slip past him made him something of a senior statesman on the Air Board.

He married his wife Shirley in 1959 after meeting her through London University Air Squadron. She survives him, together with one son and a daughter.

## Latest wills

Lady Cairncross, of Oxford, wife of the late Sir Alec Cairncross, left estate valued at £383,954 net. She left £2,000 each to RSPB, National Trust and Oxfam. Sir Foley Newsam, Acting Governor of Sierra Leone, 1960, Secretary to Cabinet, Government of Bahamas, 1963-71, of Cambridge, left estate valued at £396,322 net. He left £1,000 to both St Catherine's College, Cambridge, and Christ's Hospital, Horsham, Sussex. The Hon Lady Runge, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,124,806 net. She left £100 to both Queen Mary's London Needlework Guild and the PCC of Holy Trinity Church, Lane End, Buckinghamshire. Alice Mabel MacFarlane, of

West Wittering, Chichester, West Sussex, left estate valued at £2,220,676 net. She left £20,000 to the British Red Cross Society; £10,000 to St Martin's United Reformed Church, Saltern, and to Queen Camel Church, Somerset. Edward Hanbury Brooke, of Northerton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £6,493,372 net. Hilda Adelaide Castang, of Westfield, Hastings, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,716,000 net. Bridget Grace Grundy, retired air commodore, of Royston, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,631,354 net. She left £1,000 each to Hertfordshire Branch, British Red Cross Society, Reed Parish Church, Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association, RSPB and

Royston Community Centre. John Michael Hanbury, of Bovey Tracey, Devon, left estate valued at £1,659,903 net. Victor Jeffrey Hoare, of London SW11, left estate valued at £1,367,393 net. He left £10,000 to the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund and to the Variety Club of Great Britain. Geoffrey William Houghton, of High Leigh, Knutsford, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,466,612 net. Helen Norcock, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,096,330 net. She left £500 to Fairfield Hospital and to the Children's Society. George William Page, of London N20, left estate valued at £1,080,854 net. He left £200 to the Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association;

£100 to the Donkey Sanctuary. Alfred Reginald Turner, of Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, left estate valued at £569,826 net. He left £2,000 to the Friends of St Peter's Pembury Parish Church; £1,000 to both the Darby and Joan Club and the Parish of King Charles the Martyr Church, Tunbridge Wells; plus shares in his residuary estate to RNLI, RNIB, Stroke Association, Hospice in the Weald, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Amnesty International, Christian Aid and the MS Society. Joan Margaret Anna Somers, of London N2, left estate valued at £1,473,087 net. Herbert Ernest Harold Stradwick, of Watford, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,273,329 net.

## KEIR HARDIE'S WORK

Referring to Keir Hardie's early days in Parliament, Lord Snowden said: "He had no means of support. There was no payment of members in those days; and Hardie had no trade union to support him. We talked over this matter of his maintenance, and he submitted to me an estimate of his out-of-pocket expenses. He paid 14s [70p] a week for a room in London, his food cost him £1 a week, postages and secretarial help averaged 25s [75p] a week. This took no account of innumerable incidental outgoings, nor of clothing, railway fares home, and the maintenance of his family in Scotland. He said he might manage if he could get an allowance of £150 a year, and he would try to make up the rest of his necessary expenditure with speaking engagements at weekends and in the recesses."

"We raised by the voluntary contribu-

## ON THIS DAY

December 14, 1935

Lord Snowden, former Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, was speaking of his old friend and colleague, the Socialist pioneer, in the radio series "I knew a Man".

tions of a few friends a sum of £150 a year. These were the circumstances of a man who was slandered as rolling in luxury."

During the three years Hardie was in Parliament, from 1892 to 1895, Lord Snowden said that he made the subject of unemployment an issue in British politics. Before then the State acknowledged no obligation to make provision for the unemployed. They were regard-

ed as being in the main a lot of drunken, thriftless ne'er-do-wells whose condition was due to their own fault. By persistently keeping the unemployed question before Parliament, and by speaking at weekends throughout the country, Hardie at last succeeded in getting the Government to admit a public responsibility for the unemployed.

To Keir Hardie, more than to any other man, the credit was due for the great change which, in the last 30 years, had come over Parliament, and the awakening of the public conscience on this question. Lord Snowden denied that Hardie's Socialism was indebted to the teachings of Karl Marx. He had often heard Hardie say that his Socialism was derived from the New Testament and the poems of Robert Burns, rather than from the writings of Socialist economists. Hardie taught himself to read and write, and learned shorthand by practising the characters with a piece of coal on the white-washed face of the mine where he worked...







## HELD TO RANSOME

The Times reveals damaging conflicts of interest in table tennis

SPECIAL REPORT

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## HOUR OF TORMENT

England's batsmen collapse again

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## MAKING A SPLASH

European medals and world records for British swimmers

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PLUS

Snow reports start today

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MONDAY DECEMBER 14 1998

## BERGKAMP AND ARSENAL UNDONE BY TACTICAL SWITCH



Dublin, whose two second-half goals took his total for Aston Villa to nine in seven matches, celebrates the strike that eclipsed Arsenal yesterday and allowed his new team to regain their lead in the Premiership. Photograph: Marc Aspland

## Dublin fires Villa riposte

ASTON VILLA were beginning to look like charlatans, a team whose results against a succession of the FA Cup's lesser teams were being gradually exposed as so much fool's gold. Suddenly, Liverpool had thrashed them, Manchester United had drawn with them and Chelsea had outplayed them. On Saturday night, United overtook them at the top of the table and it seemed as if they had reached the end of their 15 minutes of fame.

Then, just when Arsenal looked as though they were going to complete Villa's unmasking yesterday, John Gregory and his side stood up for themselves. They forgot the fact that Arsenal had conceded only seven league goals all season and put three past them in the second half. Their victory not only put them three points clear of United, it also suggested that, far from being pretenders, they may be genuine claimants, after all.

It is Arsenal's crown that they want to wear, but the feeling was that if Arsène Wenger had been able to mastermind a victory for his charges at Villa Park, it may have heralded the beginning of a surge back towards the summit of the Premiership similar to the one that they summoned up at this stage last season.

On this weekend last year, Arsenal lost 3-1 to Blackburn Rovers at Highbury, a result that prompted an intense spell of soul-searching, a refusal to bow to all their disciplinary problems, an improvement in team spirit and the irresistible assault that they made on Manchester United's seemingly insurmountable lead.

A win yesterday would have put Arsenal within a point of

the top and, out of Europe, with nothing to distract them from the pursuit of the retention of their title. They may still be contenders, of course. Their first-half performance, when they opened a 2-0 lead, showed just what the return of a few first-team players can do for them. But if this match had a pivotal air about it, it swung on Villa's stirring recovery of their self-belief.

A goal from Julian Joachim and two more from Dion Dublin, who now has nine in seven games since he was signed from Coventry City, left Arsenal disbelieving and Gregory exultant. Doubts had begun to set in, fear had crept into the play of his team, he said, but now it had been banished in the most comprehensive fashion.

"There were a few players I didn't recognise in the first half because they were playing so poorly," the Villa manager said. "They all seemed to be waiting for something to happen, for Julian Joachim to make a run, for Lee Hendrie to do a wonderful turn and score an individual goal. Everybody seemed to be waiting for somebody else to do it."

But the second half was the stuff of schoolboy dreams and we hit the heights again. We

DUBLIN'S FAIR TALLY									
The £5.75 million John Gregory spent to bring Dion Dublin to Aston Villa last month has paid rich and immediate dividends. Dublin, who won the Premiership's joint-highest number of goals last season, has managed nine goals in seven appearances since he moved from Coventry City, and he scored a penalty yesterday against Arsenal. His striking performance yesterday against Arsenal ended a barren run of three matches without a goal.									
Date	Opponents	Result	Goals	Assists	Penalties	Yellow Cards	Red Cards	Minutes	Rating
Nov 7	Tottenham (H)	2-0	2	2	0	0	0	90	8.5
Nov 14	Sunderland (A)	3-0	3	3	0	0	0	90	9.0
Nov 21	Liverpool (H)	2-3	2	2	0	0	0	90	7.5
Nov 28	Nottingham Forest (A)	2-0	2	2	0	0	0	90	8.0
Dec 5	Manchester United (H)	1-1	1	1	0	0	0	90	7.0
Dec 9	Chelsea (A)	1-2	1	1	0	0	0	90	6.5
Dec 13	Arsenal (H)	3-2	3	3	0	0	0	90	9.5

showed the kind of spirit and self-belief and ability that had got us where we were in the first place. Some things were said at half-time, but they rammed it back down my throat in the second half.



Barry is left trailing as Bergkamp puts Arsenal ahead

we have given them a two-goal start today and we have still beaten them. If there is not belief in our side now, there never will be."

At half-time, though, Villa looked like a beaten side, 2-0 down to a pair of smartly taken goals from Dennis Bergkamp and contemplating a record that would have left them with two points from five games. Their matches against United, Chelsea and Arsenal were supposed to be a test of their championship credibility and, after the first 45 minutes here, it was in tatters.

Bergkamp, back after injury, opened the scoring after fourteen minutes. Ljungberg beat Wright in the air and Anelka flicked on again by out-jumping Southgate. It fell into the Dutchman's stride and he drove it across Oakes and into the corner of the net.

In first-half injury time, Bergkamp put Arsenal further ahead. He played a one-two with Anelka on the edge of the Villa box, and although Anelka was forced wide, he pulled the ball back from the byline and Bergkamp hit it first time into the corner, wrong-footing Oakes in the process.

The start of the second half was delayed for 15 minutes after a member of the RAF Hawks parachute team, jumping to publicise Villa's new insurance service, landed on the roof of the main stand and fell 80 feet onto the touchline. He was treated on the pitch and taken to Birmingham City Hospital to be treated for two broken legs.

The game changed when Gregory brought Stan Collymore on for Gareth Barry in the 54th minute and Villa threw caution to the wind, playing in an unfamiliar 4-3-3

formation. Collymore gave them the aggression and mobility that they had been lacking and his presence and pace seemed to unsettle Bould and Keown at the heart of the Arsenal defence.

Joachim gave Villa hope in the 62nd minute when he side-footed past Seaman, Hendrie having secured the ball to him after a flick from Collymore, and three minutes later the home side were level.

Joachim was the provider this time. He crossed from the right towards Dublin, and even though his shot was blocked, Thompson fired in

Campbell to the rescue... 26  
Owen pays penalty... 27  
Chelsea denied... 27  
Trouble at Portsmouth... 29  
Is Ronaldo finished?... 30

the rebound and Dublin stretched out his right foot to poke it past Seaman.

Arsenal could have gone back into the lead in the 79th minute, but Parlour dragged his shot wide after a lightning break by Bergkamp and Anelka had put him clear. The visitors paid six minutes from the end. When Keown missed Thompson's corner, Dublin cushioned it on his thigh, let it bounce and smashed it into the roof of the net.

They may not be ready to wear the crown just yet, but Villa are past the pretending stage now.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Oakes — U. Ekeogu, G. Southgate, G. Barry (sub), S. Collymore (44min), S. Watson, L. Hendrie, J. Taylor, A. Thompson, A. Wright — J. Joachim (sub), S. Grayson, 68, D. Dublin. ARSENAL (4-4-2): P. Seaman — L. Dixon, M. Keown, S. Bould, N. Wiles — F. Ljungberg (sub), G. Gennings (80), H. ParLOUR (sub), L. Boli (sub), 80, P. Wiersma, N. Overmars — N. Anelka, D. Bergkamp. Referee: S. Lodge.

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# Samaranch pledges action over Olympic bribe claims

JUAN Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), yesterday promised to expect any members found guilty of accepting bribes for voting for cities wanted to stage the Games.

In the biggest corruption scandal in the 103-year history of the Olympics, Samaranch began a damage limitation exercise after a weekend of turmoil. A special IOC panel will investigate the allegations.

First Marc Hodler, a Swiss member of the supreme IOC executive board, shocked international sport by alleging that there had been systematic bribery and other malpractices in the choosing of the site of

the Games including Atlanta, Nagano, Sydney and Salt Lake City.

Then Frank Jodit, president of the Salt Lake City Olympic Organising Committee (SLOOC), apologised and accepted full responsibility for a controversial scholarship scheme run by the group, which won the bid for the 2002 Winter Games. This programme provided nearly £250,000 in tuition and other assistance to 13 individuals, including six relatives of IOC members, mainly from Africa.

Samaranch told the news conference in Lausanne yesterday: "If we have to clean, we will clean. After, the IOC will be even stronger than before." He compared the scandal

## John Goodbody sees Games officials face up to new scandal over city bids

to the crisis over the political boycott of the Games in the 1980s and the positive drugs test on Ben Johnson at the Seoul Olympics.

He said: "They were difficult moments and now there is another difficult moment. I'm sure we will solve the problem. After the black day, the sun will come again."

He said that he had been taken aback by Hodler's allegations and said that they should have been made first to the executive board. He denied muzzling Hodler, but said that only he and Francois

Carrard, the IOC executive director, were empowered to talk to the media. He said: "We will never, never expel Hodler from the IOC," and added that there would be no possibility of taking the Games away from Salt Lake City.

The IOC yesterday declined to speculate on what sanctions might be taken against Salt Lake City. However, Dick Pound, an IOC vice-president, effectively ruled out any possibility of the Games being taken away from Utah.

Pound said that the executive board expressed "complete, repeat complete, confidence" in the organising committee. "We are satisfied Salt Lake City won the 2002 Games on the merit of the bid."

However, the IOC has set up an inquiry that will investigate Hodler's claims that "agents" have approached bidding cities soliciting bribes of up to £500,000 to procure votes of IOC members.

"What we are concerned with is whether there has been inappropriate conduct by some of our members or agents involved in the bid process," Pound said. "We are aware that there are agents."

Billy Payne, who led Atlanta's bid for the 1996 Games, angrily denied that the IOC members were

bribed before the vote. He said: "There were no payments—direct, or indirect."

Claims that African votes were up for sale were denounced by Sam Ramsamy, the IOC member in South Africa. Ramsamy said: "The targets of these claims always seem to be Africans."

Ramsamy was a member of the team that fought to win the 2004 Olympics for Cape Town, only for Athens to win the honour. Ramsamy said: "When Cape Town was bidding I made it very clear to everyone not to offer anything that was beyond the IOC instructions. If anything improper had occurred, I would have been the first to report it."



Hodler: bribery allegations

## ATHLETICS

# Radcliffe savours country life

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN FERRARA, ITALY

IN a manner reminiscent of Liz McColgan's grinding 10,000 metres triumph at the 1991 world championships in Tokyo, Paula Radcliffe yesterday claimed full reward for her brave, if risky, decision to run in the European cross-country championships here. Winning her first international championship since her junior days, Radcliffe sighed with relief. "At long last," she said. "It came too late to allow her to become a contender for BBC Sports Personality of the Year last night—that chance was lost when she was well beaten at the European championships in Budapest in August—but it gives her a platform to work from for next year. At least she now believes the virus that undid her in Budapest has cleared."

The day of the Sports Review of the Year it may have been, but that did not stop the organisers making a late attempt to persuade Radcliffe to rush home to appear. She declined. Thorough professional that she is, she had a warm-down to do and wanted a good night's sleep before recommending training.

Had Radcliffe performed poorly, her morale, low after

Budapest, would have sunk even further. "We have been working to build up my immune system and it seems to have worked," she said. After countless championship challenges, she defeated, among others, Fernanda Ribeiro, the Olympic 10,000 metres champion from Portugal.

Like McColgan in Tokyo, she turned the screw by forcing the pace throughout. In so doing, she loosened the grip of her challengers one by one.

Only six athletes remained in contention with barely half the 5.6 kilometres covered. Yanna Belkacem, from France, was first to fade and, at four kilometres, Helena Sampaio, from Portugal, followed. Ribeiro had been showing signs of struggling, dropping off the pace and getting back. Approaching five kilometres, she was lost for good.

With 600 metres to go, Olivera Jevic, from Yugoslavia, lost touch and now it was between the Briton and Anne-Marie Sandell, the 1995 champion, from Finland. The gloves came off in the last 500 metres as Radcliffe, driving up the last double hill and down the other side, dropped Sandell.

Britain's junior men narrowly missed team gold and Gareth Turnbull, from Ireland, took the individual bronze. But for a winning run by Sergey Lebid, from Ukraine, Africans would have dominated the senior men's race.

Mohamed Mourhit, Moroccan until recently, appeared, respectively, for Belgium and France, finishing second and third. If not the first African to win a European cross-country title, Mourhit can at least claim, probably, to be the first athlete to win a medal while wearing a scarf.



Radcliffe: relieved

## SWIMMING: THREE WORLD RECORDS FALL TO ELATED HOME TEAM



Hickman powers his way towards a world record in the heats of the 100 metres butterfly. Photograph: Gerry Penry

# Foster leads way as Britain enjoy day to remember

By CRAIG LORD

THE success of British swimmers was unprecedented at the European short-course championships in Sheffield after a final session yesterday in which Mark Foster set two world records. James Hickman set another, and Graeme Smith and Adam Whitehead also won titles.

Never before have British swimmers set three world records in one day, let alone taken out records of the quality of those that had been held by Alexander Popov, of Russia, and Michael Klim, of Australia.

Foster shaved 0.02sec off Popov's 50 metres freestyle record to leave it at 21.48sec in the morning heats. The final left smoke on the water, the 28-year-old from the University of Bath stopping the clock at 21.51sec before leaping aloft the lane rope in a double-fisted salute to his coaches, both German and British.

Although Foster spends much of his time at Bath under the watchful eye of Ian Turner, his schedules are set by Dirk Lange in Hamburg, where Foster has his stroke technique analysed in a flume. If proof of his patriotism were needed, however, Foster has just become the proud owner of an 11-week-old Bulldog, which he has named George. George will not want for biscuits. Foster went home almost £15,000 better off yesterday, the money part of the £10,000 that the European Swimming League paid out in bonuses for the 13 world and seven European records set in three days of competition.

If Terry Denison, Hickman's coach at Leeds, was a happy man, the same was true of the man who nurtured Hickman from a promising youngster to a swimmer capable of winning the world short-course title last year, Dave Calleja, the coach at Stockport.

Calleja rushed to the edge of the pool to embrace Smith after watching him set a Scottish record of 14min 42.29sec to win the 1,500 metres freestyle and confirm that he is on the way back after two disappointing seasons.

Typifying the new-found strength in British swimming, Whitehead, coached by Nick Sellwood at Coventry, was the surprise champion of the 200 metres breaststroke. His time of 2min 08.54sec was the fifth fastest in history and provided confirmation that Britain at last has a worthy successor to Adrian Moorhouse and Nick Gillingham.

# Fairbrother does the necessary

■ JUDO: Nicola Fairbrother, the 1992 Olympic silver-medal winner, did what was necessary to take the lightweight side at the British closed judo championships in Cardiff yesterday (John Goodbody writes). Her fight, against Debbie Allan, the 1998 European silver medal-winner, was the most long-awaited bout of the day. Allan was knocked down by Fairbrother early on, but no score was given. It was only when Allan received a penalty point that Fairbrother went ahead. She played a careful tactical game and kept away from the attacks of her fellow international. Danny Kingston failed to make the weight for the lightweight category of under 73kg. He was forced to take part in the light-middleweights, where he lost to Graeme Randall, the eventual winner.

# London teams advance

■ BOWLS: Cambridge Park, who play at Twickenham, and Cyphers, who play at Beckenham, chalked up good wins in the fifth round of the national inter-club championship on Saturday (David Rhy Jones writes). Cambridge Park defeated the 1995 champions, Preston, 67-59, while Cyphers, five-times winners, registered an 85-57 win over Portsmouth Victory. Blackpool Borough defeated Stanley, and Blackpool Newton Hall, who play on the site of a former elephant house, beat Steaford, 80-75.

# Hall out of contention

■ SAILING: After an unprecedented course change in the Around Alone race, the leaders were bracing themselves for further bad weather as they passed north of the remote Kerguelen Islands yesterday. Isabelle Autissier, in PRB, is still setting the pace, but among the casualties is Josh Hall, of Great Britain, on Gormora, who is beginning to lose touch with the leading group.

# Scots left with silvers

■ GUNSHOTS: Peter Lindstrom, of Sweden, and Andreas Schoppa, of Germany, led their teams to European championship titles in Finland, leaving Scotland with two silver medals. Sweden beat David Smith's Perth squad by six shots to five, and Schoppa took the championship for the sixth time, beating Rhona Martin's Greenacres team 12-4. The same side beat Martin's team to European bronze two years ago.

# Grant lifts leaders clear

■ FOOTBALL: Arsenal extended their lead at the top of the women's Premier Division to four points, after Cira Grant scored in each half to see off spirited Liverpool yesterday. Doncaster Belles, who have three games in hand in second place, drew 0-0 with Croynod, who are third. Bradford secured their first point of the season, drawing 1-1 with Millwall.

# Britain meet holders

■ RUGBY LEAGUE: Great Britain are in the same pool as New Zealand, the holders, in the World Nines to be held in Johannesburg from February 4-6. Fiji and Papua New Guinea complete the group. Australia, France, Western Samoa, South Africa and Tonga make up Pool B. The top four teams from each group will contest the quarter-finals.

## BASKETBALL

# Leopards must smarten up

By NICHOLAS HARLING

NEVER short of words, however, his team is faring, Billy Mims made no secret of what he thought of his Greater London Leopards on Saturday. "We played dumb basketball," Mims said after his team, Budweiser League champions for the past two seasons, had crashed to their ninth defeat of the campaign by 93-83 at Thames Valley Tigers.

"We turned the ball over far too often to give them easy baskets," the coach added. "We played like a team on a public park. We need to become mentally tougher, to play smart."

Fortunately for Mims, he has Wednesday's home league fixture against Manchester Giants, the leaders, to rectify matters before his team face Newcastle Eagles in the National Cup semi-final next Sunday at the NEC. If the Leopards lose, they will have little to interest them during the second half of the season.

The Leopards failed on Saturday to defeat opponents who were without two key players for long periods. Jason Slemmon, who twisted an ankle ligament in the third minute, did not reappear until near the end of the third quarter. He finished with six points, which was twenty less than the flying John McCord managed, despite suffering a bang on the knee. "We managed to find a way of winning," Paul James, the Tigers' coach said, "although we were nowhere near our best."

Like Mims, James faces a National Cup semi-final next Sunday, when they will be extending their defence of the

minutes from the end opened up a 12-point lead and finally shook off the Leopards.

In other games, London Towers beat Leicester Riders 88-86 with the help of 29 points from Dwayne Morton and 26 from Danny Lewis, and Edinburgh Rocks beat Chester Jets 73-72 thanks to a last-second score by Ted Berry.

His second three-pointer four

Cup against Sheffield Sharks. His squad certainly looked to have turned the corner following two recent Trophy blips, no one more so than Casey Arena, whose 25 points

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£5,000+	3.05	2.55	2.04	2.80	2.76	2.30	2.28	1.89
£500+	2.80	2.30	1.84	2.58	2.52	2.06	2.03	1.62
Below £500	0.20	0.20	0.16	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.16

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# Australia's grip on Ashes looks unbreakable after yet another humiliating surrender

## England destroyed by hour of madness

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN ADELAIDE

ADELAIDE (third day of five): Australia, with nine second-innings wickets standing, are 314 runs ahead of England.

AN HOUR of harrowingly inept cricket before lunch yesterday surrendered all but the most outlandish prospects of the Ashes coming home and any possibility that England might be taken seriously in Australia this winter. Even to those injured by a decade of inadequacy, this was among the most disillusioning of days, exposing as it did the notion that the gap between these teams is narrowing.

As so often before, England undermined days of diligence with

day's debacle a singularly sour vintage. There had been much to admire in England's stoicism, both when forced to field on a first day of debilitating heat and then when their top-order batting was dismantled by a blend of ill-luck and ill-judgment.

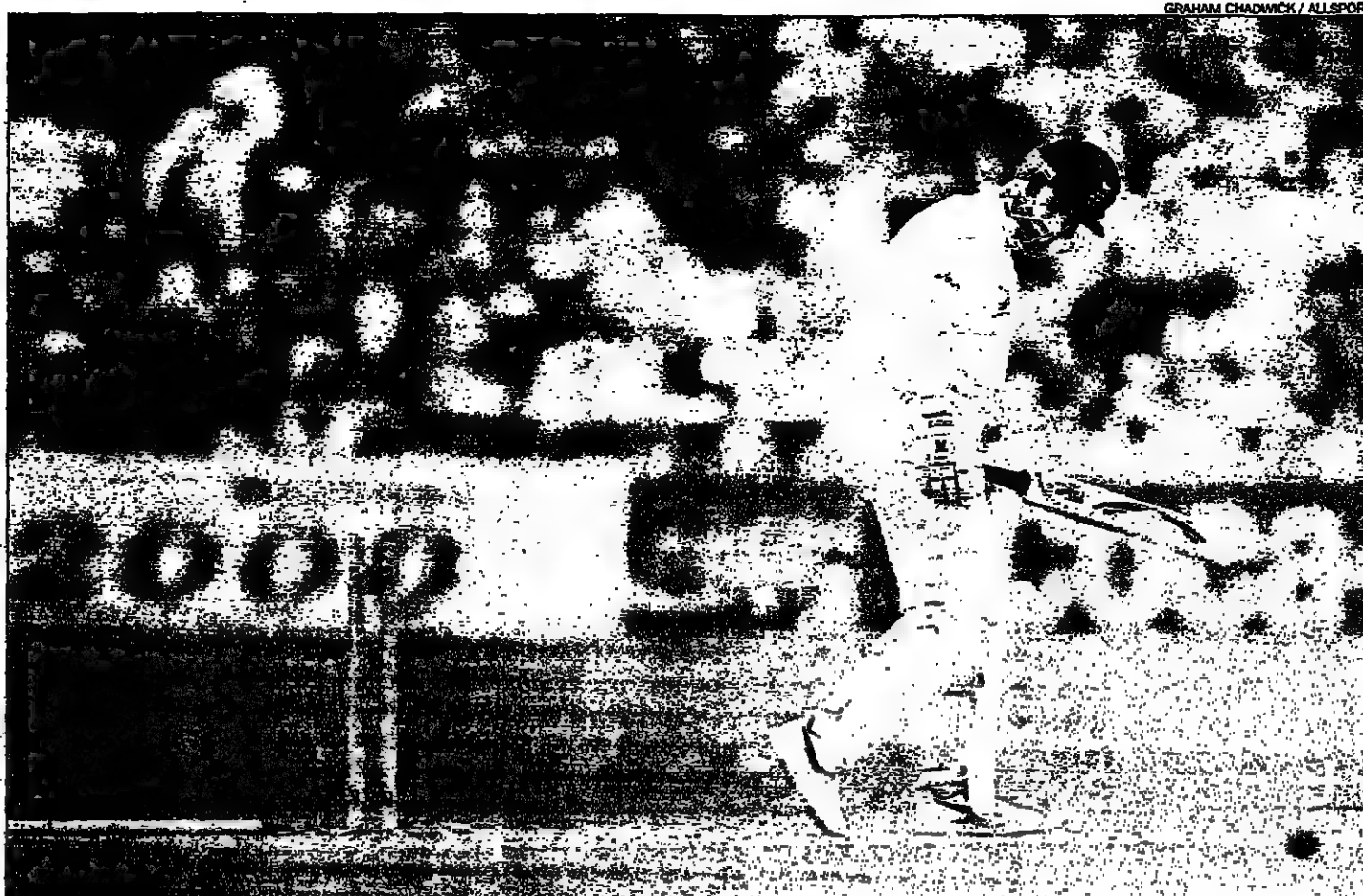
This, though, was the game that they simply had to survive, so such resolution should have been taken on trust. An hour into the third day, with the fourth-wicket stand between Nasser Hussain and Mark Ramprakash past 100, even the most cynical and faint-hearted had begun to believe that it might be sustained long enough for England to draw, win or, at the very least, compete. It was a sorry deception.

When Ramprakash was out, after another innings indicative of his new self-assurance, England reacted as if paralysed by fear and expectation. Their last seven wickets fell for 40, the last five tumbling within 19 balls. Hussain was abandoned on 89 by tailenders bankrupt of runs and defiance and Australia, who would have felt content with a lead of 70, suddenly had almost 100 more runs to play with.

Inevitably, the remainder of the day seemed an irrelevance, played out to a 20,000 crowd subdued into mute acceptance of an old and familiar plot. England needed to bowl Australia out for fewer than 150 to salvage any remote hope of victory and, instead, that score was reached for the loss of a single wicket. Two more dropped catches — making an unforfeitable aggregate of 15 in the series — compounded England's grief and with so much time still available on a pitch tailored for leg spin, there is no obvious escape route.

The mood had been so different on Saturday, when England kept Australia below 400 and batted pleasingly in response. Two of the wickets lost were controversial, the third reiterated just how inadequate Alec Stewart can be made to look when he has to begin his innings against spin bowling.

Stewart's fifth wicket of the tour came through thrashing woodenly and flat-footedly at the off spin of Colin Miller and it raises once more the subject of his place in the



Crawley, having made five, looks back to see that his off stump has been laid flat by McGrath during the third-day collapse in Adelaide

Hussain: stranded on 89

minutes of madness. In Perth, a fortnight ago, they lost the second Test on the first morning and spent the next two days on a vain retrieval mission. Here, by way of a change, two days of valiant, combative cricket were squandered in an hour of abject fatalism.

The welfare and atmosphere of the team has been improved beyond measure and it cannot be pretended that there are better-qualified players left unselected. Yet, for the umpteenth time, Ashes optimism has been destroyed by realisation that Australia's cricket, mentally and technically, is so overwhelmingly stronger that they will take all the critical decisions.

It is rare for a game to pass without an England batting collapse, but the circumstances made yesterday

batting order. He cannot return to opening, partly through the burden of his own duties but chiefly because it would compromise strengths for the benefit of a weakness, so serious thought must be given to him batting at No 6.

Mark Butcher might have been unhelpfully adjudged leg-before to Miller, though he had no business to be shouldering arms, and Atherton was in his best form of the series until nudging a leg break from Stuart MacGill to slip. Mark Taylor scooped up the catch and appeared to claim it as clean, but as neither on-field umpire was sure, and Atherton was disinclined to walk, the decision was referred.

Paul Angley, the third umpire, dispatched Atherton with summary speed but among those who

watched a dozen replays, arguments continued. England's immediate protest, put in writing to the match referee by Graham Gooch, the manager, related to the manner of adjudication and the inexperience of Angley, though whether it was wise to invite accusations of whingeing is debatable.

From 34 for three, England received forthright nourishment from their two most productive batsmen of the tour. Neither man allowed the spinners to dominate and, yesterday morning, it was a delight to see the bare-headed Ramprakash swing Miller for two on-side strokes as he completed his fifty. Taylor, though, summoned Glenn McGrath to instant effect, extra bounce finding Ramprakash's edge and Mark Waugh

taking the catch at second slip. Then, with alarming haste, the retreat was under way. Crawley, who has become an immense disappointment, lost his off stump offering a limp bat and leader fell to McGrath. Hick, who at least looked to counter-attack, drove stiffly at a leg break and edged it to slip. The rest is painful to relate.

England can be said to have four No 11s and three of them were out without scoring — Headley and Such to the first balls they received and Mullally, after a brief flirtation with the middle of the bat, for his fourth consecutive Test no-out. Gough struck two resounding blows but was then thoughtlessly given too much of a MacGill over when Hussain took a single. Remarkably, Hussain repeated the

aberration by taking one off the first ball of the next over and Fleming quickly mopped up the last two wickets.

The rest of the day was as dire as England could have imagined. Their one wicket came by courtesy of Taylor playing no stroke against Such — almost a replica of Butcher's dismissal — and Justin Langer, who scored a century in the first innings, was put down by both Butcher and Stewart, on three and seven respectively.

England's spinners, full and part-time, obtained nothing like the assistance gleaned by MacGill, and Michael Slater made serene progress towards another century. I even found a few Australians shaking their heads with regret at the one-sidedness of it all.

## Gooch's team exposed to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth

PERJURY. That's the most appropriate word for it. England have told the Australian public that they are better prepared than any touring team of the past; that they are happy in their cricket and each other's company; that the defeat at Perth was merely the prelude to happier times. As seven wickets tumbled in the hour before lunch on the third day of the third Test here, the public they have deceived laughed in their face. Roared.

"Wanted", a banner in the meadow at deep mid-wicket proclaimed, "blood donors for the England cricket team". The blood, it went on, "must have high concentration level, high skill level, high pride level. Donors without these requirements need not apply". And that, like it or lump it, is how this team is perceived. A team of losers, short of skill, boldness and initiative.

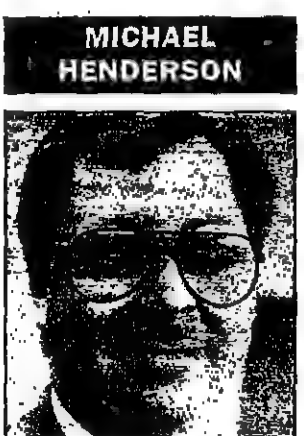
Unless a storm of Brisbane proportions floods the ground in the next two days, or, almost as likely, England bat as if their lives depend on the

outcome, they will go to Melbourne two Tests down, with the Ashes remaining in Skipper's pouch. Their abject batting here, after Ramprakash and Hussain had shared a century stand, condemns them by their own hand.

What the dickens was Crawley doing, having his off stump flattened by a straight ball from McGrath? As for Hick, snuffed at slip as he aimed a swat through mid-wicket off a bowler he would lift over the sight-screen at New Road, what is there to say? Little, save this: England's tail in this innings began at No 6. It's not funny. It's an embarrassment.

For that matter, what was the England management playing at, registering an official complaint about the third umpire's hasty decision to give Atherton out, caught at slip, on Saturday? Such plays do not sit well in Australia and, in any case, there were visible grounds for saying that Taylor's catch was good.

You want to know how



In Adelaide

strong Australian cricket is, in relation to the atrophied English game? Here goes. A player as good as Chris Lewis has played 32 Tests. A player as good as Stuart Law has played but one. England persist with people who are not earthly good because they struggle to find better.

Australia cannot find room for outstanding players because there are too many good 'uns blocking the path.

So Hick is restored to the team after eight years of modest achievement, soothed by words of praise. "He's bound to do it this time". Of course he won't. And Crawley, a good player with a flaw on and around off stump, is reduced to a gibbering wreck every time he takes guard.

On a pitch turning so extravagantly that Australia have made 150 runs in their second innings for the loss of one wicket, England contrived to lose their last five in four overs. Eight players scored fewer than ten. Four men made ducks, including Mullally for the fourth successive innings and Stewart for the fifth time on tour.

Team England, as we are encouraged to call them, have an army of helpers that seems to grow by the month. The backroom team assembled by the England and Wales Cricket Board involves everybody

except a candlestick-maker — and the way things are going, Graham Gooch will be polishing the candelabra before long. He seems to do everything else on this tour, except toss up.

"Team England". Indeed! The best teams comprise players who can bat for hours, bowl straight and hold catches. England have some good ones — Stewart, Atherton, Hussain and the injured Thorpe spring to mind, as well as Gough and Fraser. Australia, on the other hand, have half a dozen great ones.

In the past six series, including this one, Australia's batsmen have scored 39 hundreds to England's 17; their bowlers taken five wickets in an innings 32 times to England's 11. This match is merely following a well-established pattern. If England play well, they may carry the game into a fifth afternoon. In the meantime, instead of erecting a screen of bull, wouldn't it be nice if somebody dared to tell the truth?

### SCOREBOARD FROM ADELAIDE

Australia won toss.		ENGLAND: First Innings		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18 (Atherton 5), 2-33 (Hussain 20), 3-54 (Hussain 30), 4-187 (Hussain 89), 5-188 (Hussain 89), 6-210 (Hussain 79), 7-210 (Hussain 79), 8-226 (Hussain 89), 9-227 (Hussain 89).
M J Slater b Stewart & Headley	17	M A Butcher b Miller	6	BOWLING: McGrath 18-4-49-2 (no 5, w 1, 5; 100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 11-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 12-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 13-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 14-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 15-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 16-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 17-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 18-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 19-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 20-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 21-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 22-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 23-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 24-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 25-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 26-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 27-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 28-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 29-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 30-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 31-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 32-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 33-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 34-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 35-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 36-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 37-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 38-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 39-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 40-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 41-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 42-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 43-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 44-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 45-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 46-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 47-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 48-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 49-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 50-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 51-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 52-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 53-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 54-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 55-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 56-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 57-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 58-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 59-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 60-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 61-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 62-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 63-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 64-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 65-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 66-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 67-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 68-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 69-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 70-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 71-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 72-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 73-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 74-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 75-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 76-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 77-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 78-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 79-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 80-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 81-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 82-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 83-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 84-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 85-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 86-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 87-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 88-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 89-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 90-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 91-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 92-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 93-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 94-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 95-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 96-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 97-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 98-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 99-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs), 100-5-10-0 (100 balls, 2 wickets, 2 runs).
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FA Carling Premiership: Defeat by Wimbledon completes bad week for Liverpool

# Owen misses his penalty prize

MICHAEL OWEN was whisked straight from Selhurst Park to the BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards last night, but he will not have been in the mood to deliver a charming acceptance speech.

Prizes for popularity come second to winning football matches for this most competitive of teenagers, but the Liverpool striker missed a penalty to condemn his team to their third defeat in a week.

Out of Europe after their midweek loss to Celtic Vigo, the Anfield club may soon be running out of routes back to the continent unless they can bring a quick end to a run of eight defeats in 11 games. This reverse left them in the bottom half of the FA Carling Premiership and while they created enough chances to have won this match, Gerard Houllier's assertion that he was "proud" of his team seemed a rather desperate attempt to bolster waning morale.

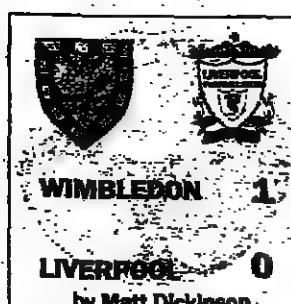
"I've told the players that if they keep playing like that, they will get back to the top of the table," the Liverpool manager said, but that was to ignore the way they faded after a bright opening. If this was an improvement on recent performances as regular Liverpool watchers claimed, it only underlined the depths to which they have occasionally sunk.

By the time that Owen's penalty was saved by Neil Sullivan in the 78th minute, the spot kick controversially awarded against Andy Roberts for a push on Paul Ince, Liverpool were trailing to a goal from Robbie Earle that also stirred some debate.

The goal looked illegal, but we should have known that Liverpool's jittery defence would be in some way to blame.

The naked eye put Earle at least a yard offside as Gayle's mis-hit shot reached him, but television replays showed that Bjornebye had stepped up too late. Earle nonchalantly prodded the ball past James from eight yards.

It was a goal that had not looked likely for most of a first



half in which Liverpool had dominated possession, their wing backs pushing forward unopposed to outnumber the Wimbledon midfield. Heggem, in particular, appeared to be relishing his freedom, making some buccaneering dashes upfield.

The Norwegian's attacking vigour created Liverpool's best opportunity from open play for Owen, but the England forward chipped the ball over Sullivan but wide of the post. It set the tone for an unusually frustrating afternoon for the England forward.

He, and the rest of the Liverpool side, were not helped by the fact that they were facing a goalkeeper in wonderful form. Neil Sullivan's contribution to Wimbledon's promising season has been rarely acclaimed, but he deserved as much praise as anybody yesterday and rightly won the man-of-the-match award by a landslide.

A one-handed save when Heggem's shot took a treacher-



Owen: weak spot kick

ous deflection after 19 minutes was even better than his drive to thwart Owen's penalty, and his assuredness must have made it far easier for his back four, in which Dean Blackwell was also excellent, to play with confidence.

They were cut open frequently in the opening period, but looked far more secure after half-time when the full backs pushed forward to stifle Heggem and Bjornebye.

With their penetration down the flanks reduced, Liverpool's flow of chances dried up and they were a frustrated bunch by the end. None more so than Owen, who was predictably booked for dissent. The England forward will receive a one-match ban in the league to add to his ongoing suspensions in Europe and for England. Will he ever learn?

Victory for Wimbledon saw them leap four points clear of Liverpool, and confidence is so high at Selhurst Park that they will be hopeful of finishing the season in that position.

It was another fine scalp for Joe Kinnear's side after recent victories at home to Arsenal and Chelsea. Jason Euell was again excellent in midfield, twice making a twist of Ince with clever turns, and they defended as resolutely as ever with Blackwell flinging himself at the feet of onrushing attackers.

For Liverpool, though, the suffering goes on. Redknapp and Ince continue to fail to dominate games. Fowler is not receiving proper service, and the defence is, well, the same as ever. When Owen is not firing as well, they really do have problems.

The boy wonder is 19 today, but one suspects any number of presents and a bauble from the BBC will still not prevent him getting out of bed on the wrong side this morning after that spot kick.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, S Thatcher — N Jordan, R Eadie, J Euell, M Hughes — C Leatham (sub: E Stokes, 68min), M Gayle (sub: A Roberts, 77). LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — J Cunningham, S Staunton, P Burch — V Heggem, R Redknapp, P Ince, P Borge, S Bjornebye — R Fowler (sub: K Steele, 68), M Owen. Referee: G Willard.



Stuart Pearce buries his head in his hands after missing a good goalscoring opportunity for struggling Liverpool

## Chelsea's standing is still not enough for the top

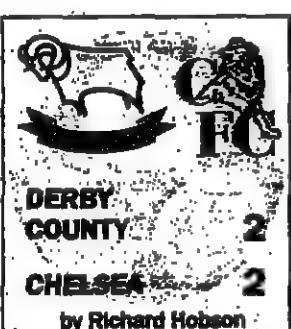
NOTORIETY acquired in minutes can take years to lose. When a reputation is forged over time, it becomes so fixed in the public imagination as to go unquestioned. Despite mounting evidence to the contrary, there are still people who query the resolve of foreign players in an English winter, believe that Liverpool represent the ultimate in passing football and state that Chelsea are flawed with inconsistency.

Jim Smith, the Derby County manager, could not stifle a chuckle when this last point was raised after a chaotic FA Carling Premiership game at Pride Park. "Well," he said, "Chelsea have gone 15 games unbeaten now. That seems pretty consistent to me."

Having entertained all of the realistic aspirants to the FA Carling Premiership title in recent weeks, bar Aston Villa, Smith's opinion that Chelsea are realistic title contenders must be treated with respect. "There is little to choose between Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea. I think it will go to the wire," Smith said. The fact that Derby have drawn against each of them appears to confirm his view.

Chelsea, however, came the closest of the three to securing full points. Leading 2-1 in the 89th minute, they stood within a minute of moving to the top of the league for the first time in nine years. Then, with the home side pressing men forward, Harper and Wanchoppe combined for Sturridge to equalise from close range.

The temperate reaction of Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea manager, provided an insight into the confidence within his side. It was, he said, "a little bit disappointing," sounding for all the world as though Chelsea will arrive at the summit



in good time. A man under less pressure became difficult to picture.

Smith described some of the movement of the visitors as "fantastic," adding: "It is all very well to say that you can get at them at the back, but they don't let you have the ball long enough to do that." None of the midfield players featured more prominently than Jody Morris, whose thoughtful performance belied his inexperience.

A pass that created his team's first goal, in the 53rd minute, was sublime, matched only by a lofted finish from Flo as Poom raced in vain towards the through ball. Morris con-



Morris belied inexperience

ceded possession dearly and might have earned a penalty when he fell under the challenge of Prior.

"It is nice to see a young English player perform so well," Vialli said. Nice to get the chance, the 19-year-old would have been entitled to retort. Morris, who has considered requesting a transfer, does not expect to play against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Wednesday, when Dessailly will be fit after a minor knee problem. "Jody would probably be a regular in almost all the other English teams," Vialli added.

Morris was also called upon defensively, with Derby roused by a morning newspaper article that Prior described as "very Chelsea, very arrogant, there was an arrogant assumption that they would be going to the top of the league." When Lambourne deflected a free kick from 30 yards by Carbonari beyond De Gea, a vibrant start received its due reward. So, too, did Smith, having backed the Argentine defender to score the first goal at 18-1.

Chelsea became more imposing for the introduction of Petrescu at half-time. Poyet shot underneath the dive of Poom four minutes after Flo had equalised, before Wanchoppe, who fashioned his best work outside the most dangerous areas, squandered a fine chance to level. Yet Smith placed the emphasis on attack with a triple substitution and, as Chelsea struggled to reorganise, Sturridge pounced.

DERBY COUNTY (4-4-2): M Poom — S Prior, H Carbonari (sub: D Sturridge, 77min), J Lambourne, R De Gea, L Brown (sub: S Sturridge, 77). LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — J Cunningham, S Staunton, P Burch — V Heggem, R Redknapp, P Ince, P Borge, S Bjornebye — R Fowler (sub: K Steele, 68), M Owen. Referee: G Willard.



George Coulkin Five years on and David Batty could be forgiven for wondering precisely what has changed since he last ran out from the home dressing-room at Elland Road.

David O'Leary, Gary McAllister, Noel Whelan and Gordon Strachan were in close attendance while a Yorkshire crowd was expectant, rather than merely hopeful, of imminent silverware. McAllister and Strachan — two of his colleagues in the championship-winning side of 1992 — are playing their trade, along with Whelan, with tonight's opposition, Coventry City, while O'Leary is now clutching United's managerial reins.

Leeds remain capable of passion and intensity, but their outlook has shifted. So while Batty's physical presence will be welcomed, it would not be a cause for great celebration if it was to rob Leeds of their youthful, attacking vigour. For Coventry, it may be a case of damage limitation with Paul Telfer and Darren Huckerby, their leading scorers, suspended.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): M Martin — J Woodgate, R Moller, L Rodhe — A Smith, D Batty, A Husted, L Brown, I Hart — H Venn, J F Hasselbaink. COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — R Harrison, R Shaw, P Williams, M Connolly — G Beardsley, G McPherson, P Connolly, S Propper — M Whelan, T Sturridge. Referee: M Bury.

## Bakayoko gives Everton relief in relegation duel

IT WAS the type of acclaim that Walter Smith would receive from Rangers supporters only after victories over Celtic or the clinching of yet another championship. His Everton team's achievement had been merely a 1-0 home win over the FA Carling Premiership's bottom club. Yet the final whistle prompted a thunderous ovation around Goodison Park.

Smith may still represent the blue half of a city after his move from Glasgow in the summer, but his present and previous posts are oceans of blue apart.

Accustomed to years of almost continual success after inheriting the best team in Scotland from Graeme Souness, Smith has taken to a club whose own supremacy in the mid-Eighties has been overshadowed in the realistic minds of its supporters by recent battles against relegation. That they had just witnessed only Everton's second win and third goal in nine league games at home this season, explained such an outpouring of joy on Saturday.

The upheaval at Everton over the past few years is illustrated by the fact that none of the 13 men they used in the corresponding fixture last season played this time. Many new players have failed to settle, and the evidence of his initial few games suggested that Ibrahim Bakayoko, one of Smith's signings, could be another. However, a first goal in his ninth league match was just reward for a fine display of control, acceleration and shooting.

Bakayoko scored on the half-hour from 20 yards and almost added two more goals from long-range efforts. The Ivory Coast striker has flourished since the departure of



Duncan Ferguson, suddenly finding that his powerful runs are attracting passes to his feet when, previously, they had been often treated as decoys, while long balls flew towards the head of the tall Scotsman.

Elsewhere in the team, however, it is easy to see why Everton are the only side in either Premiership or Nationwide leagues to have scored fewer goals than Southampton. Tackling has become a more important word than creating in Collins's dictionary — the Scotland midfielder is among the Premiership's leading tacklers, statisticians reveal — while Ball and Cleland, the wing backs, did not look as happy going forward as, for example, their counterparts at Aston Villa and Leicester City, two clubs that use the same formation. A team comprising Everton's attack and Liverpool's defence might struggle to beat Tranmere Rovers reserves at the moment.

Everton's resilience cannot be questioned, though, with Hutchison's outbarring of Hughes in midfield perhaps provoking the Welshman into fouling his opponents and bringing him his 11th booking of the season. Southampton showed their inventive side by producing two glorious chances in the opening quarter, but

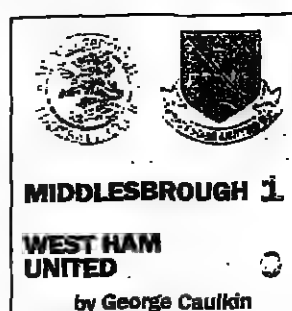
their weakness in front of goal was underlined by the failure of Kachoul and Hughes even to hit the target.

Their waywardness gave Everton a third victory in four games without Ferguson present, the ten-point haul in that period constituting their best run in nearly a year. Such a return was routine for Smith at Rangers, but on his Mersey beat, it is music to his ears.

EVERTON (3-5-2): T Mayne — R Dunne, S Bate, D Woodward — A Cleland, A Grant (sub: N Barnes, 68min), D Hutchison, J Collins, M Ball — I Bakayoko, M Mader (sub: G Dacourt, 78). SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-2): P Jones — J Dodd, G Mork, C Lundelund, S Hiley — M Oakley, M Hughes, H Kachoul (sub: S Riley, 68) — C Duerksen, J Beattie (sub: S Bradley, 87).

Referee: A White

## Gascoigne still offers reasons to be jolly



THE legend is familiar to children of all ages. It concerns a puddy man who looks fetching in red, failed for his bustling joviality. The problem this chap has is that some wait so long for his sporadic appearances that when he finally turns up they are heartily sick of him. Paul Gascoigne, back to his best? Ho, ho, ho.

It is a story so old, with all twists of plot so recognisable, that it has turned into the most hoary of clichés. Like his festive counterpart, the Middlesbrough midfielder is regarded as little more than a caricature. Like that certain gentleman with the sack and reindeer, he is capable of the most wondrous of deliveries. For 45 minutes on Saturday, Gascoigne reworked the tale with magical ingenuity.

He was not quite perfect, for there was an occasion when he was caught in possession, but nothing else was wasted. He sprayed passes the breadth of the pitch and creating space where none was apparent. After his first week of full training since being discharged from a rehabilitation clinic, Gascoigne was described by Bryan Robson, his manager, as "the best player on the pitch".

To his team-mates, it was just as rewarding, for here is a rare talent prepared to get his hands dirty, willing, when necessary, to take the simple option. "He has this great quality on the ball and can make the team play, but by the same token he's prepared to roll his sleeves up and muck in," Andy Townsend said.

Townsend's right-wing corner brought the only goal. Brian Deane drifting inside Rio Ferdinand to scoop with a firm header and while both sides hit the woodwork — Steve Vickers for Middlesbrough and John Harrison for West Ham — Gascoigne carried the day.

Inevitably, thoughts turned to England. John Gorman, Glenn Hoddle's assistant, may have been at the Riverside Stadium, to assess Frank Lampard Jr, but Gascoigne cannot have escaped his attention.

"He'll do well to find anyone better," Townsend said. Perhaps the best present of all is on the horizon. Christmas, after all, is a time for giving. MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): M Schwarzer — C Cooper, S Vickers, G Fowler — R Stockdale (P Sarno, 88), R Hudson, P Gascoigne, A Townsend, D Gordon — H Rodd (sub: 73), B Deane. WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): S Hales — S Potts, I Pearce, R Ferdinand, S Lacerda (E Omeruo, 78) — T Snodgrass, S Lomas, P Lamford, M Miller (sub: 46), J Harrison, I Wright. Referee: K Budge.

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## Interest in Juninho is denied

CHELSEA last night dismissed reports that they are involved in negotiations to bring Juninho back to the FA Carling Premiership. Agents for the Brazilian international are understood to be offering his services around Europe after Atletico Madrid hinted that they might be willing to sell the 25-year-old.

Although Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea manager, has stated that he is interested in signing another forward after the departure of Brian Laudrup to FC Copenhagen and the

serious knee injury to Pierluigi Casiraghi, a Stamford Bridge source denied yesterday that Juninho has become a target.

The former Middlesbrough player has said that he would be interested in a return to England, but Madrid are unlikely to allow him to leave until March at the earliest, because they are still in the Uefa Cup.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, insist-

ed yesterday that Rio Ferdinand was not for sale after the England defender was linked with Manchester United and Liverpool.

Redknapp was dismissive of the reports, which were fuelled by West Ham selling Andy Limpey to Leicester City recently without the manager being consulted by Peter Storer, the West Ham chairman. Redknapp yesterday conceded that the club needed the money from the Limpey sale, but added that the matter was now closed.

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CORRECT SCORE		HALF TIME / FULL TIME	
LEADS	SCORE	COVENTRY	LEADS
13/2	1-0	10/1	LEADS
13/2	2-0	25/1	LEADS
15/2	2-1	18/1	LEADS
10/1	3-0	80/1	LEADS
10/1	3-1	66/1	LEADS
28/1	3-2	40/1	LEADS
17/2	0-0	17/2	LEADS
6/1	1-1	6/1	LEADS
14/1	2-2	14/1	LEADS
Other scores not on request.		Bets void if match not completed	
FIRST GOALSCORER		FIRST GOALSCORER	
4/1	HASSELBAINK (L)	13/2	KEWELL (L)
6/1	SMITH (L)	8/1	JACKSON (C)
8/1	WHELAN (C)	12/1	BOWYER (L)
16/1	HOPKIN (L)	16/1	MALISTER (C)
20/1	FROGGATT (L)	17/2	NO GOALSCORER
Other players on request.		Own goals do not count.	
FOR ALL THE MIDDIEW FOOTBALL PRICES SEE CH4 TEXT P60172/3			



FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

OVERSEAS

D	L	F	A	PA
4	3	15	5	38
7	1	23	14	25
1	5	18	15	25
5	3	18	14	33
4	2	22	14	32
4	3	27	20	22
2	4	17	17	21
2	3	30	21	30
2	5	18	29	30

CARLING												F&A PREMIERSHIP	
HOME						AWAY						Gms	
P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Opp.
17	8	2	1	17	11	3	4	1	10	8	33	+10	
18	8	2	0	21	8	4	4	2	12	11	30	+14	
19	5	3	0	13	5	2	5	1	13	11	29	+10	
20	5	3	0	13	5	2	4	2	12	12	27	+4	

[illegible]


4	4	21	15	18	4 Aldersboro
5	5	19	20	19	5 Leeds
3	3	13	17	18	5 Arsenal
3	3	6	15	18	7 West Ham
4	4	5	17	17	5 Wimbledon
5	5	12	20	19	9 Leicester
5	5	13	16	14	10 Derby
5	5	16	21	12	17 Tottenham
2	2	8	23	11	12 Liverpool
					13 Sheff Wed
					14 Everton
					15 Newcastle
					16 Charlton

16	4	5	0	19	7	2	4	5	1	12	11	26	+12
17	4	5	2	14	3	2	4	3	6	7	26	+1	
17	4	4	0	11	3	2	4	3	6	7	26	+1	
17	4	3	1	12	9	3	2	4	8	12	26	+1	
17	5	3	1	14	9	2	2	4	8	17	26	+1	
17	5	2	1	14	9	1	4	3	7	10	24	+1	
17	2	5	2	8	8	3	3	2	9	8	23	+1	
17	2	5	2	15	15	2	2	4	8	11	23	+1	
17	3	8	2	15	10	3	1	5	12	12	22	+1	
17	5	2	2	13	5	3	2	3	8	10	22	+1	
17	5	2	2	3	5	3	2	3	8	11	21	+1	
17	4	2	3	13	10	1	4	4	5	9	19	16	
17	2	5	2	13	8	1	4	5	9	13	15		

22	19	FRENCH LEAGUE: Nancy 1
22	18	Bordeaux 3 Le Havre 0; Lille
22	17	0; Rennes 1 Montpellier 2; Str
16	11	lyons 0, Poultoned: Sochaux
14	12	DUTCH LEAGUE: MVV Maastr
12	13	Excelsiorn 3 Roda JC Kerkr
12	16	Nijmegen 0.
19	18	PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Amato
19	15	Batalha 1, Comoroense 0
18	16	America 5, Rio Ave 1, Uniao
12	9	Lisbon v Sporting Braga Sport
11	27	AFRICAN CHAMPIONS' LEAG
8	17	(Zany Coast) 4 Dynamos (ZIM)
8	14	

**17 Coventry**  
**18 Blackburn**  
**19 Nottm F**  
**20 Southampton**

16	3	2	3	9	10	1	1	8	5-10
17	3	2	4	10	10	0	2	5	14
17	1	4	3	6	9	1	1	7	9
17	1	2	6	9	17	1	2	6	3

ationwide **FOOTBALL LEAGUE** 

**PREMIER LEAGUE**



**George Weah, the AC Milan only goal in yesterday's Serie**

	P	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worktop	20	11	3	8	28	28
Bamber Bridge	21	9	7	5	23	34
Altrincham	20	8	9	6	23	28
Warrington	20	8	9	3	21	20

Byth Spartans	22	10	3	9	29	37	33
Guslebury	20	10	2	2	22	30	24
Cambridge	20	10	2	2	22	30	24
Grimsborough	21	9	4	8	31	25	31
Emley	18	8	5	5	24	29	30
Harrogate	17	8	5	4	25	18	29
Leeds	17	8	5	4	25	18	29
Whitby Town	16	8	6	8	31	27	26
Leigh Riel	16	7	6	7	26	30	27
Elfring Wick	20	6	9	9	30	35	24
Marine	19	6	9	9	30	35	24
Fridley	17	5	8	21	23	22	22
Colwyn Bay	16	5	10	10	26	32	22
Widnes	16	5	10	10	26	32	22
Stalybridge	19	5	6	9	27	31	23
Spenninghoe	19	5	6	9	27	31	23
Abingdon S	18	4	13	25	27	33	18
Chorley	18	4	13	25	27	33	18
Chorley S	21	2	9	10	21	21	38

PPHS: Walsley, Epsom, Town & Ashurst 2  
 Bradford Ph 2, Hudders 2, Burnage 1  
 Farsley Celtic G, Eastwood Town 2, Wigan 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Munroton	23	14	4	2	2	17	47
Bay City	18	10	1	2	1	17	35
Grass Valley	17	10	1	2	2	18	32
Shoshoni	19	7	9	4	2	20	30
Grass Valley	17	8	9	4	3	22	30
Grass Valley Town	22	1	1	1	3	22	30

Hastings	18	6	4	6	21	27	27
Boston Lads	20	6	6	9	33	34	28
Merridy	17	6	6	6	30	26	27
Alphesne	17	6	6	6	30	26	27
Cambridge City	20	6	3	9	34	29	27
Weymouth	19	6	3	9	33	28	28
Taunton	19	6	3	9	33	28	28
Worcester City	17	7	2	6	18	24	25
Grantham	27	7	1	9	25	27	22
Halesowen	20	7	1	9	25	31	22
Stourbridge Town	20	7	1	9	25	31	22
Salisbury	17	5	3	9	18	20	19
Burton Albion	17	5	3	9	21	28	18
Stamford	19	5	3	9	21	28	18
Stamford	19	5	3	9	21	28	18
Doncaster	19	3	5	10	20	30	14

**MIDLAND DIVISION** Seasonal 1. Peterborough 1. Barnet 2. Boreham 3. Boreham 4. Boreham 5. Boreham 6. Boreham 7. Boreham 8. Boreham 9. Boreham 10. Boreham 11. Boreham 12. Boreham 13. Boreham 14. Boreham 15. Boreham 16. Boreham 17. Boreham 18. Boreham 19. Boreham 20. Boreham 21. Boreham 22. Boreham 23. Boreham 24. Boreham 25. Boreham 26. Boreham 27. Boreham 28. Boreham 29. Boreham 30. Boreham 31. Boreham 32. Boreham 33. Boreham 34. Boreham 35. Boreham 36. Boreham 37. Boreham 38. Boreham 39. Boreham 40. Boreham 41. Boreham 42. Boreham 43. Boreham 44. Boreham 45. Boreham 46. Boreham 47. Boreham 48. Boreham 49. Boreham 50. Boreham 51. Boreham 52. Boreham 53. Boreham 54. Boreham 55. Boreham 56. Boreham 57. Boreham 58. Boreham 59. Boreham 60. Boreham 61. Boreham 62. Boreham 63. Boreham 64. Boreham 65. Boreham 66. Boreham 67. Boreham 68. Boreham 69. Boreham 70. Boreham 71. Boreham 72. Boreham 73. Boreham 74. Boreham 75. Boreham 76. Boreham 77. Boreham 78. Boreham 79. Boreham 80. Boreham 81. Boreham 82. Boreham 83. Boreham 84. Boreham 85. Boreham 86. Boreham 87. Boreham 88. Boreham 89. Boreham 90. Boreham 91. Boreham 92. Boreham 93. Boreham 94. Boreham 95. Boreham 96. Boreham 97. Boreham 98. Boreham 99. Boreham 100. Boreham 101. Boreham 102. Boreham 103. Boreham 104. Boreham 105. Boreham 106. Boreham 107. Boreham 108. Boreham 109. Boreham 110. Boreham 111. Boreham 112. Boreham 113. Boreham 114. Boreham 115. Boreham 116. Boreham 117. Boreham 118. Boreham 119. Boreham 120. Boreham 121. Boreham 122. Boreham 123. Boreham 124. Boreham 125. Boreham 126. Boreham 127. Boreham 128. Boreham 129. Boreham 130. Boreham 131. Boreham 132. Boreham 133. Boreham 134. Boreham 135. Boreham 136. Boreham 137. Boreham 138. Boreham 139. Boreham 140. Boreham 141. Boreham 142. Boreham 143. Boreham 144. Boreham 145. Boreham 146. Boreham 147. Boreham 148. Boreham 149. Boreham 150. Boreham 151. Boreham 152. Boreham 153. Boreham 154. Boreham 155. Boreham 156. Boreham 157. Boreham 158. Boreham 159. Boreham 160. Boreham 161. Boreham 162. Boreham 163. Boreham 164. Boreham 165. Boreham 166. Boreham 167. Boreham 168. Boreham 169. Boreham 170. Boreham 171. Boreham 172. Boreham 173. Boreham 174. Boreham 175. Boreham 176. Boreham 177. Boreham 178. Boreham 179. Boreham 180. Boreham 181. Boreham 182. Boreham 183. Boreham 184. Boreham 185. Boreham 186. Boreham 187. Boreham 188. Boreham 189. Boreham 190. Boreham 191. Boreham 192. Boreham 193. Boreham 194. Boreham 195. Boreham 196. Boreham 197. Boreham 198. Boreham 199. Boreham 200. Boreham 201. Boreham 202. Boreham 203. Boreham 204. Boreham 205. Boreham 206. Boreham 207. Boreham 208. Boreham 209. Boreham 210. Boreham 211. Boreham 212. Boreham 213. Boreham 214. Boreham 215. Boreham 216. Boreham 217. Boreham 218. Boreham 219. Boreham 220. Boreham 221. Boreham 222. Boreham 223. Boreham 224. Boreham 225. Boreham 226. Boreham 227. Boreham 228. Boreham 229. Boreham 230. Boreham 231. Boreham 232. Boreham 233. Boreham 234. Boreham 235. Boreham 236. Boreham 237. Boreham 238. Boreham 239. Boreham 240. Boreham 241. Boreham 242. Boreham 243. Boreham 244. Boreham 245. Boreham 246. Boreham 247. Boreham 248. Boreham 249. Boreham 250. Boreham 251. Boreham 252. Boreham 253. Boreham 254. Boreham 255. Boreham 256. Boreham 257. Boreham 258. Boreham 259. Boreham 260. Boreham 261. Boreham 262. Boreham 263. Boreham 264. Boreham 265. Boreham 266. Boreham 267. Boreham 268. Boreham 269. Boreham 270. Boreham 271. Boreham 272. Boreham 273. Boreham 274. Boreham 275. Boreham 276. Boreham 277. Boreham 278. Boreham 279. Boreham 280. Boreham 281. Boreham 282. Boreham 283. Boreham 284. Boreham 285. Boreham 286. Boreham 287. Boreham 288. Boreham 289. Boreham 290. Boreham 291. Boreham 292. Boreham 293. Boreham 294. Boreham 295. Boreham 296. Boreham 297. Boreham 298. Boreham 299. Boreham 300. Boreham 301. Boreham 302. Boreham 303. Boreham 304. Boreham 305. Boreham 306. Boreham 307. Boreham 308. Boreham 309. Boreham 310. Boreham 311. Boreham 312. Boreham 313. Boreham 314. Boreham 315. Boreham 316. Boreham 317. Boreham 318. Boreham 319. Boreham 320. Boreham 321. Boreham 322. Boreham 323. Boreham 324. Boreham 325. Boreham 326. Boreham 327. Boreham 328. Boreham 329. Boreham 330. Boreham 331. Boreham 332. Boreham 333. Boreham 334. Boreham 335. Boreham 336. Boreham 337. Boreham 338. Boreham 339. Boreham 340. Boreham 341. Boreham 342. Boreham 343. Boreham 344. Boreham 345. Boreham 346. Boreham 347. Boreham 348. Boreham 349. Boreham 350. Boreham 351. Boreham 352. Boreham 353. Boreham 354. Boreham 355. Boreham 356. Boreham 357. Boreham 358. Boreham 359. Boreham 360. Boreham 361. Boreham 362. Boreham 363. Boreham 364. Boreham 365. Boreham 366. Boreham 367. Boreham 368. Boreham 369. Boreham 370. Boreham 371. Boreham 372. Boreham 373. Boreham 374. Boreham 375. Boreham 376. Boreham 377. Boreham 378. Boreham 379. Boreham 380. Boreham 381. Boreham 382. Boreham 383. Boreham

Dynamo 2; Middlesbrough 2; Scunthorpe 2; Weston-super-Mare 1. **Stanford AFC** 2; **Blaenau Town** 2; **Goldenfield Town** 2; **Moor Green** 2; **Southern Cheshire** 1; **Baldock** 0; **Hazlet** 2; **Warrington** 5; **Snackley** 1; **Stamphourne** 4; **Chatterley** 1; **Widley** 2; **Darnley** 2; **Falkenstein** 1; **Inch** 4; **Erch** 2; **Devedon** 0; **Vale** 2; **Flint** 3; **Corby** 1; **Margate** 5; **Bentley** 0; **Raunds** 3; **St Leonards** 2. **Prestonpocket** 1; **Asford** 1; **Andover** 1; **Cheneshaw** 1; **Fisher** 1; **Lancaster** 1; **Newport** 1; **Tonbridge** 1.

**SOUTH EAST COAST LEAGUE.** **Redbridge** 1; **Colchester** 1; **4** **Bournemouth** 3; **Gillingham** 0; **Reading** 2; **Luton** 2; **Barnet** 1; **Portsmouth** 2; **Bristol** 3; **Southeast** 1; **Wycombe** 2.

[illegible]

**George Weah, the AC Milan forward, is held aloft by Olivier Bierhoff after scoring the only goal in yesterday's Serie A game against Vicenza. Photograph: Carlo Fumagalli.**

## NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

### FA VASE

**AROUND:** **1st** Chesham 0 **2nd** Cote 0  
**3rd** 2 Goals 3; **4th** Chesham 0 **Whitson**  
**5th** 2 Goals 3; **6th** 2 Goals 3; **7th** 2 Goals 3  
**1st** Camberley 2 **2nd** 1 **3rd** 1 **4th** 1  
**5th** 2 Goals 3; **6th** 2 Goals 3; **7th** 2 Goals 3  
**1st** 2 Goals 3; **2nd** 2 Goals 3; **3rd** 2 Goals 3  
**4th** 2 Goals 3; **5th** 2 Goals 3; **6th** 2 Goals 3  
**7th** 2 Goals 3; **8th** 2 Goals 3; **9th** 2 Goals 3  
**10th** 2 Goals 3; **11th** 2 Goals 3; **12th** 2 Goals 3  
**13th** 2 Goals 3; **14th** 2 Goals 3; **15th** 2 Goals 3  
**16th** 2 Goals 3; **17th** 2 Goals 3; **18th** 2 Goals 3  
**19th** 2 Goals 3; **20th** 2 Goals 3; **21st** 2 Goals 3  
**22nd** 2 Goals 3; **23rd** 2 Goals 3; **24th** 2 Goals 3  
**25th** 2 Goals 3; **26th** 2 Goals 3; **27th** 2 Goals 3  
**28th** 2 Goals 3; **29th** 2 Goals 3; **30th** 2 Goals 3  
**31st** 2 Goals 3; **32nd** 2 Goals 3; **33rd** 2 Goals 3  
**34th** 2 Goals 3; **35th** 2 Goals 3; **36th** 2 Goals 3  
**37th** 2 Goals 3; **38th** 2 Goals 3; **39th** 2 Goals 3  
**40th** 2 Goals 3; **41st** 2 Goals 3; **42nd** 2 Goals 3  
**43rd** 2 Goals 3; **44th** 2 Goals 3; **45th** 2 Goals 3  
**46th** 2 Goals 3; **47th** 2 Goals 3; **48th** 2 Goals 3  
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**244th** 2 Goals 3;

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

W	D	F	A	W	L	F	A	Ph
27	1	37	7	5	0	1	9	39
27	2	14	10	6	0	22	21	40
27	3	5	8	7	1	1	17	41
27	4	6	4	8	1	1	17	42
27	5	8	4	9	1	1	17	43
27	6	8	4	10	1	1	17	44
27	7	8	4	11	1	1	17	45
27	8	8	4	12	1	1	17	46
27	9	8	4	13	1	1	17	47
27	10	8	4	14	1	1	17	48
27	11	8	4	15	1	1	17	49
27	12	8	4	16	1	1	17	50
27	13	8	4	17	1	1	17	51
27	14	8	4	18	1	1	17	52
27	15	8	4	19	1	1	17	53
27	16	8	4	20	1	1	17	54
27	17	8	4	21	1	1	17	55
27	18	8	4	22	1	1	17	56
27	19	8	4	23	1	1	17	57
27	20	8	4	24	1	1	17	58
27	21	8	4	25	1	1	17	59
27	22	8	4	26	1	1	17	60
27	23	8	4	27	1	1	17	61
27	24	8	4	28	1	1	17	62
27	25	8	4	29	1	1	17	63
27	26	8	4	30	1	1	17	64
27	27	8	4	31	1	1	17	65
27	28	8	4	32	1	1	17	66
27	29	8	4	33	1	1	17	67
27	30	8	4	34	1	1	17	68
27	31	8	4	35	1	1	17	69
27	32	8	4	36	1	1	17	70
27	33	8	4	37	1	1	17	71
27	34	8	4	38	1	1	17	72
27	35	8	4	39	1	1	17	73
27	36	8	4	40	1	1	17	74
27	37	8	4	41	1	1	17	75
27	38	8	4	42	1	1	17	76
27	39	8	4	43	1	1	17	77
27	40	8	4	44	1	1	17	78
27	41	8	4	45	1	1	17	79
27	42	8	4	46	1	1	17	80
27	43	8	4	47	1	1	17	81
27	44	8	4	48	1	1	17	82
27	45	8	4	49	1	1	17	83
27	46	8	4	50	1	1	17	84
27	47	8	4	51	1	1	17	85
27	48	8	4	52	1	1	17	86
27	49	8	4	53	1	1	17	87
27	50	8	4	54	1	1	17	88
27	51	8	4	55	1	1	17	89
27	52	8	4	56	1	1	17	90
27	53	8	4	57	1	1	17	91
27	54	8	4	58	1	1	17	92
27	55	8	4	59	1	1	17	93
27	56	8	4	60	1	1	17	94
27	57	8	4	61	1	1	17	95
27	58	8	4	62	1	1	17	96
27	59	8	4	63	1	1	17	97
27	60	8	4	64	1	1	17	98
27	61	8	4	65	1	1	17	99
27	62	8	4	66	1	1	17	100

HOME										AWAY										Pts
P	W	D	L	F	A	F	A	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	F	A			
7	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
8	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
9	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
10	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
11	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
12	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
13	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
14	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
15	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
16	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
17	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
18	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
19	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
20	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
21	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
22	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
23	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
24	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
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26	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
27	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
28	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
29	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
30	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
31	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
32	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
33	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
34	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
35	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
36	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
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38	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
39	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
40	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
41	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
42	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
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83	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
84	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
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90	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
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92	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
93	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
94	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
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96	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
97	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
98	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
99	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			
100	7	2	1	1	16	21	17	7	8	0	1	2	3	8	11	44	32			

HOME										AWAY										
F	W	D	L	F	F	F	F	F	F	W	D	L	F	F	F	F	F	Pls		
21	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	40		
19	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	38		
18	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	36		
21	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	34		
20	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	32		
21	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	30		
20	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	28		
19	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	26		
18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	24		
21	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	22		
20	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	20		
19	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	18		
18	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	16		
21	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	14		
20	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	12		
19	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	10		
18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	8		
21	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	6		
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	4		
19	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	2		
18	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	0		
21	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	0		
20	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	0		
19	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	0		
18	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	0		
21	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	0		
20	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	0		
19	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	0		
18	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	0		

SCOTLAND												
HOME						AWAY						Goals
P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	
17	7	2	0	15	6	3	2	3	15	10	34	+11
16	5	1	1	15	6	3	2	9	5	31	+11	
15	8	2	1	26	14	1	4	4	10	14	27	+11
14	6	4	2	19	14	8	5	8	10	26		
13	6	7	2	14	9	4	4	5	5	15	23	
12	8	3	2	7	7	7	2	4	6	14	20	
11	6	2	8	6	3	1	5	12	12	19		
10	4	3	1	9	6	4	1	5	17	19		

HOME											AWAY											Goals	
P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff											
18	7	5	1	1	14	9	5	4	1	3	18	47	+11										
19	5	4	1	1	14	9	5	4	1	3	18	41	+5										
19	5	4	1	3	23	15	5	2	1	15	8	30	+33										
19	4	1	1	5	10	14	5	2	1	15	8	28	+3										
19	5	5	5	5	10	14	3	4	7	10	28	28	+0										
19	3	5	4	3	8	6	5	3	13	23	22	22	+0										
19	2	2	4	3	11	13	3	3	4	14	14	22	+0										
19	2	2	4	4	7	11	2	2	5	11	14	19	+0										
19	2	2	4	8	12	14	2	2	5	7	10	16	+0										

[illegible]

HOME					AWAY					GAMES	
P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	Pts	
15	8	0	0	3	12	7	7	1	1	29	48
16	5	4	1	1	10	1	1	1	11	4	38
17	4	0	0	4	15	3	3	2	2	12	7
18	3	2	4	4	12	10	4	3	8	30	44
19	3	1	4	2	13	5	1	7	1	8	29
20	3	1	4	2	12	22	4	1	10	43	23
21	4	4	2	2	11	3	2	2	5	12	24
22	1	3	5	2	10	10	2	5	5	12	17
23	2	2	4	3	11	5	6	5	7	17	20
24	2	4	3	3	11	3	1	7	7	25	14

**VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME**

**RESULTS FROM SATURDAYS MATCHES:** There were eleven score draws. Derby v Chelsea, Tottenham v Man Utd, Bristol City v Crystal Palace, Tannmere v Bolton, Wolverhampton v Norwich, Macclesfield v Luton, Millwall v Reading, Wigan v Wrexham, Dundee Utd v Celtic, Dunfermline Motherwell, St Johnstone v Dundee. Payouts on eight, seven, six and five score draws. The week confirmed pay out for: Eight score draws: 26 winners each £1,762.50. Seven score draws: 438 winners each £29. On six score draws: 4,044 winners each £6. Five score draws: 22,091 winners each £2. News each £29 on six score draws.

### POOLS CHECK

[illegible]



## FOOTBALL

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

Not according to Gregory, who placed all the players on the transfer list last week at bargain basement prices. John Aloisi, the Australia striker, whom Bell rates in the £2 million class, is due to have further talks with Alan Curbishley, the Charlton Athletic manager, today. The fee being mentioned is a derisory £500,000.

**PORTSMOUTH (4-1-3-2):** A. Peterson — I. Thorgesen, A. Thomson, A. Jøntoft, M. Robinson — D. Hiller — B. Igaa, A. McLaughlin, J. Petersen (aut.), F. Simpson, (Grim) — J. Aasen, S. Christie (aut.); L. Nørthingen, 73).

**STANLEY TOWER (4-4-2):** A. Davison — J. McPherson, S. Ljungström (aut.); R. Smith, 82). P. Høiby, A. Gullmar — K. Dønning, S. Colclough, P. Groves, D. Smith — L. Høgen (aut.); K. Black; 64). L. Ashcroft.

References: B-Knight.



**By PAT GIBSON**

selves, however. "They definitely gave the whole place a lift," Kenny Jackett, the coach who has been in charge during Taylor's absence, said after a Watford victory that consolidated their position of third in the Nationwide League first division. It is a considerable achievement by a club that was promoted from the second division only last season and has spent little on new players, but a crowd of

**WATFORD (4-42):** A Chamberlain — D. Beasley, S. Palmer, R. Page, P. Robinson — N. Wright, M. Hyde, R. Johnson, P. Kennedy — A. Smart (sub: M. Ngonge, 7mm), G. Noel-Williams.

**STOCKPORT COUNTY (4-42):** C. Nash — S. Connolly, M. Flynn, M. McIntosh, J. Gannon — R. Matthews (sub: A. Wilkshire, 45), D. Monnes, P. Cook, K. Cooper — I. Moore, B. Angel.

**Referee:** M. Mason.

**TV KEVIN EASON**

Ipswich, for all their trickery and neat football, were disappointingly predictable. The

**Stallions:** M. Appleby — A. McKee,  
S. Jones, M. Appleby — N. Eaton, E. Tinkler,  
S. McLane, C. Higgins, D. Bernard — D. Burton  
(sub: M. Turner, 53), B. Dyer  
**Hallmarks:** M. Dyer

**DU ALUMNI PRIMO**

## Peterborough Orient's ru

**ough end  
n of form**

## Working conditions climb from 1990

## Continue to m depths

By NICK SZTEPAÑIK

On one hand, the attitude of Tommy Taylor, the Orient manager, was: "Run? What run?" "You just go from game to game and you want to get three points," he said. On the other, he implied that one or

[illegible]

**By WALTER GAMMIE.**

For a long time it looked as though Kidderminster would hang on to gain a second away win in fine matches. Barty in the Woking goal had already been at his sharpest, to deny Yates and to block a shot at his near post by Hadley. In the second half, he reacted well to slay a right-foot strike by Purdie and was then grateful to see Steele turn clear an effort by May at the far post.

**Rovers** and Telford United at the expense of high-riding Cheltenham Town, Stevenage Borough and Rushden and Diamonds underlined that few Conference points are easily gained nowadays.

**WORKING** (S-S-2): L. Emly — S. Preston, F. Saunders, J. Day, H. Mann, S. Smith, M. Williams, D. Wainwright, A. Gale, C. Gardner, A.S. P. Girdlestone, D. Bon (subs) S. Steele, 48) — S. Wheeler, G. Payne  
**WYCOMBE** (S-W-2): R. Johnson, K. Jones, J. Adams, N. Williams, J. Dunnigan, 57) — P. Webb, A. Johnson, L. Hynes — S. Jamson, M. Yates, S. Taylor, J. Parke — L. May, S. Hoyle  
Referee: W. Toms

**By PHIL GORDON**



**Wallace: scoring regularly**

Sublime goals from Gary Bolland, of St Johnstone, and Dariusz Adamczuk, of Dundee, were out of context with a turgid 1-1 draw, while John Spencer scored again for Motherwell in their 1-1 draw at Dunfermline.



### Wallace: scoring regularly

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## CHANGING TIMES



# Divided loyalties aroused by split personalities

Greg Rusedski said that the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award was "the biggest award you can win as a sportsman in Britain". Robin Askew, the actor, said much the same thing after winning a showbiz award twenty-odd years ago. He was not holding up one of the gorgeous golden masks created by the great Mitzi Cunliffe, for this was not a Baffa. He had not been selected by a committee of the good and the great, seeking to make a decision on a fair, wise and objective basis. Nor was this an award decided by public vote. So far as I remember, it was an ITV/Sun award, and I think you voted by sending in

a form from *The Sun*. Askew never got a Baffa, never got the critical award he deserved for his performance of essential power and depth as that tortured soul, Timothy Lee. The name of the work was *Confessions of a Window Cleaner*. Askew won the award for the achievement of tickling people's fancies. The BBC Sports Personality award rewards those who have done precisely the same thing. You can argue for ages about what the award is really all about, but the argument is fruitless. It means precisely what any individual voter wants it to mean.

highest possible sporting achievement, you lost your illusions in 1996, when Steve Redgrave won his fourth Olympic gold medal and Damon Hill won the award for coming second in the Formula One world championship. Winning the damn thing would not have been worth a single one of Redgrave's golds in any serious, objective sporting terms. Winning that fourth medal was one of the greatest moments of sport any of us will be around to see. The only possible rival will be if the old boy does the impossible in 2000. No, you win the award because people like the cut of your jib. Of course, it helps if you have achieved something



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

really rather splendid in a heavily televised sport, like winning the World Cup. Bobby Moore won in 1966. A track-and-field Olympic medal is a help too. In 1992, Linford Christie won the Olympic 100 metres, the greatest single event in sport. But no, he didn't get the award in 1992. That went to Nigel Mansell, who won the Formula One world championship.

Again, his was a lesser achievement. But, you see, the poor soul had been trying for years, and his constant oppression at the hands of filthy foreigners had touched people's hearts. And of course, the win was fresh in the memory. Linford got it the following year, after a great world championship, but all the same, he did better the year that he didn't get it. The same was true of

Daley Thompson, who failed to win the award when he won Olympic gold in 1984 — Torvill and Dean, equally deserving, got it — but Thompson won with lesser achievements in 1982. In 1988, Britain won the Olympic hockey gold medal, in a tournament that was a great national obsession while it lasted. But it wasn't Sean Kerly who got the award, it was dear old Steve Davis. I remember Steve talking about journalistic awards, and saying it must be great to have them, because we press chaps didn't otherwise get the chance to compete with each other. But you don't get an award by reaching the tape in front of the others, or even by putting balls into little pockets. You

get it because certain people like the cut of your prose. The fact of the matter in these popular-voting type awards is that the voter has no pretence of objectivity. It is all about what fired your imagination, what gave you pleasure. And what gives pleasure is not necessarily victory. Gallant failures who have won the award include Paul Gascoigne, who got the award for failure and blubbing. Greg Rusedski got the award last year for his — genuinely — gallant failure to win the US Open, beaten in the final by Pat Rafter. In 1995, when Frank Bruno at last won a world boxing title, the award

went to Jonathan Edwards, because he seemed a nice fellow. It is not really anything to do with sport, this award. It is to do with caprice, with pleasure. And that is actually its point, its strength. Who cheered us up? Who put a spring in our step? Who seemed a really nice sort? Then put the name down and send it off in the knowledge that neither your vote, nor the award, nor sport itself is a very great matter. People involved in sport, including sportswriters, take sport with very great seriousness. The award, and its capriciousness and its downright injustice, reminds us of a crucial fact. People watch sport for pleasure — not for duty.

'It is self-wounding to push him more quickly than nature to an early decline'

## Why it is folly to write off Ronaldo

The nectar of sport is at its keenest when youth excels, and it is distressing when critics rush to hasten their decline. From Milan comes the headline "Ronaldo Is Finished".

Is he? The debate is premature, though not without substance. The Brazil striker is going through the most rapid of down-cycles even in modern sports. In the spring, he was the finest footballer on earth; by summer we puzzled over his scary World Cup final appearance; and in midwinter there are some in Italy wanting to reduce him from *numero uno* to a shell of the man he was.

Even Ronaldo, being bounced from one medical opinion to another, admits that the pain in his knees is chronic and he is despairing of breaking that cycle of pain equalling poor performance. As he returned to Milan from yet another incomplete performance for Internazionale in the European Cup Champions' League on Wednesday, he could not have failed to read the signs.

From billboards close to San Siro, a young and fresh face stared out at him. *L'Ultima Stella del Calcio Britannico*, they read — The Ultimate Star of British Football. Michael Owen is crowding Ronaldo's territory. Owen is 18 and he has what the marketers deem will sell Christmas gifts. Ronaldo, poor dear, is already 22.

A part of me cries out that this multi-media game should be stopped, that the insensitive spiral of the pedestal and the fall should be arrested. Remember, if Ronaldo is written off so soon, the same fate could await Owen when he loses his instant appeal.

There is cause, no doubt, for concern over Ronaldo. He is drained and he looks it. Rather than the breathtaking skill with

ROB HUGHES



which he mesmerised Colin Hendry at the start of the World Cup, we saw that eerie view of Ronaldo groping morosely through the final in the Stade de France.

A billion pairs of eyes scrutinised that. There was too little information to know the meaning of his alleged "convulsive" fit hours before the game, though if there was medical credence to this, it borders on the criminal for Ronaldo to have been required, or allowed, to trudge through the final.

He is in a country where the creative explosion has reached such fearful proportions that a magistrate last week demanded medical records of 45 players who died prematurely in Italy over the past ten years, and who are considered "suspicious deaths".

No one says that Ronaldo is endangered, but more than one



After struggling to recapture his best form, Ronaldo showed a glimpse of his former sparkle when scoring for Internazionale in the 1-0 victory away to Udinese in Serie A yesterday

physician has suggested that the power and speed generated by those enormous thighs have caused the degeneration in his knees. What they fail to say is that, as the product of a hopelessly drug-addicted father and a mother who sold pizzas to pay his bills, Ronaldo has been hawked around the football world from the age of 12.

Money in ever-more escalating sums, from £12,500 in 1990 to £20 million seven years later, has

changed hands between five clubs who, regardless of the knee ligament and tendon surgery that he first needed at 17, have coveted the goals and paid the financial price.

Nike, Pirelli, an Italian cheesemaker and a Brazilian brewer all pay him substantially and seek to extract returns. In the circumstances, especially when one meets him and finds that he is an unexceptional but rational

young man, he seems to respond with good nature to an unnatural adolescence, youth and early manhood.

In Monte Carlo in September, serene in the company of his fiancée, Susanna Werner, he gave the impression that he had overcome the trauma of the World Cup and relished playing again. "I'm not what they say, a phenomenon," he tried to explain. "I am Ronaldo, trying to do my best."

The question of whether Ronal-



'We saw that eerie view of him groping morosely through the World Cup final'

do is finished is preoccupying Milton Petroni, the physiotherapist whom Ronaldo has brought to Europe from Brazil, and Piero Volpi, whom Internazionale pay to get him onto the pitch.

They have different minds: Petroni cautions that his player needs complete rest from his inflamed knee-tendons; Volpi begs to differ and thinks it should be a match-by-match assessment. So Ronaldo, unconvincing against Sturm Graz on Wednesday, was back to play against Udinese yesterday and score a last-minute winning goal.

If the medical advice is conflicting, who are we to spread alarm about the next decade of Ronaldo? If pressed, I would say that the absolute height of Ronaldo, at least on any sustained basis, may already have passed. He may be too damaged, or too rich, to push himself or to believe in the same innocent way that if he merely follows his instincts, he will run through any opposition.

That quality, at present, belongs to Michael Owen. Yet it would be careless to assume that the English boy will maintain his startling pace, his fearless and unquestioning style, for anything like the 231 goals in 271 games that so far represent Ronaldo's mark on the game. True, Owen has a stable and supportive home background, but the questions that Ronaldo now faces could be just around the corner for him,

like the change of the picture on a billboard.

One example for them both was seen at Old Trafford on Wednesday where Lothar Matthäus, 35 in March, gave up an hour of his time. Matthäus has also been to Milan, and also suffered an horrendous knee injury while with Inter. After his comeback, he could not recapture the dynamism that he once had in midfield, yet he still has the mentality of a winner.

Matthäus still works visibly harder on the training ground than young pretenders, men with that precious youth, who think the day that they wear his mantle can be only just around the corner.

Franz Beckenbauer, the president of Bayern Munich, sees it otherwise. He sees a competitor of the old school showing up the lack of dedication in youngsters. And Beckenbauer, and all of those with eyes, can see in Matthäus the hope for Ronaldo.

Surely it is foolish and self-wounding for anyone who marvels at his skill, to want to push him more quickly than nature is doing to a regrettable early decline. Why not let him know that we, the fans worldwide, wish him well, and wish for our own selfish reasons to restore the bond between a player who can and spectators who wish they could? But if resurgence comes, our part of the bargain should be to lower, just a notch or two, the hysterical Ronaldomania.

## Maier ignites Austrian resurgence

FROM JOHN HOPKINS IN VAL D'ISERE

IN THE manner of ski racing, the normal scheme of things was resumed in the Alps yesterday, after an astonishing turn of events 24 hours earlier. Hermann Maier, the great Austrian skier who was the overall champion in the 1998 World Cup, after winning 11 races, and Stephan Eberharter, his countryman, finished first and second respectively in the super giant slalom here in the Criterium de la Premiere Neige. In fact, Austrians took five of the first ten places.

"Today was a good race for me," Maier said after his second victory of the season. He was smiling and joking and looked altogether happier than he had on Saturday, when his start number of 13 foretold his bad luck and poor finish — 36th in the downhill. "This made up for yesterday," he said.

The weather had looked unpromising before the start of the race. Although there was no difficulty for the recreational skiers who arrived at this resort, there were predictions that the race might have to be cancelled to allow the skiers to move on to Italy, where there is a slalom today. Low cloud seemed to shroud the matter and a light drizzle rain was falling.

It was, though, clear up at the top and within moments of the start it was just as clear that, this time, the Austrians

had got their tactics right. Maier, from a starting position of eighth, powered his way down the mountain in 1min 18.73sec, a target that proved more than one second better than Eberharter, whose time was 1min 19.91sec. Success was all the sweeter as Maier won here last year, only to be disqualified for removing his skis too soon after the finish. "This is already a better season than Alberto Tomba had after his all-conquering 1988 season," Maier said. "He won only one race the following season and I've already won two."

Eberharter said: "I am happy we had a fair race today. Everything was fair: the piste, the weather. I cut yesterday's race out of my mind. We knew what had happened — the conditions changed. It was one of those things. Skiing is an open-air sport. You have to deal with different conditions and yesterday we did not."

Led by Maier, the Austrians skied the super giant slalom as if wanting to blow away the disastrous result in the downhill, collectively Austria's worst-ever in a downhill. Suddenly all the memories of an event in which the 11 competing Austrians all finished between fifteenth and 47th were gone.

What had happened on Sat-

urday, the Austrian said, was they had chosen their starting numbers incorrectly, placing their best skiers between numbers 11 and 21, when they thought the weather would be at its best.

In fact it was at its worst, with poor snow and bad light and one by one the Austrians limped home way down the field — Eberharter was 23rd, Andreas Schiffrer 29th and

Fritz Strobl 31st. "It was not possible for them to ski fast with the numbers they had," Lasse Kjus, of Norway, the race winner, said graciously. "The conditions were difficult. I was lucky. I had a late number, but then I always take a late number."

To be at a French ski resort when a French skier is competing is to be made aware of the

intense musical support. Here the noise is magnified when Jean-Luc Cretier, the Olympic downhill champion, is on piste because Cretier lives in Bourg St Maurice, just down the mountain, where his wife owns a perfume shop.

As Cretier began his run just after 11am yesterday morning, cowbells started jangling, drums banging and somewhere among the spectators at the finish a band struck up. It did not do Cretier much good, though. He skied poorly by his own standards, finishing nearly four seconds behind Maier.

The ski industry in Austria is an important part of that country's economic programme, which explains why so many Austrian skilling are spent producing many of the world's best skiers year after year. The Saturday lull apart, the Austrians can claim supremacy in both men's and women's skiing at the moment. Just as Maier is probably the best male skier in the world, so Alexandra Meisnitzer is his equivalent among the women. Austrian skiing, in short, may never have been as good as it is now.

"It takes six good races to get into the team and everyone is pushing one another," Eberharter said in his excellent English. "We have a lot of good trainers and a lot of good skiers. Yes, this is Austria's strongest-ever team."



Maier finds his form in the super giant slalom yesterday



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This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow Patrick Vieira, above, faces a Football Association disciplinary panel after his unsavoury behaviour at Hillsborough following Paolo Di Canio's infamous pushing of the referee. Matt Dickinson reports from Birmingham on what is expected to be a heavy punishment for the Arsenal player.

Wednesday Marcel Desailly, the rock of Chelsea's defence, looks forward to the top-of-the-table Premiership match with Manchester United.

Thursday Who will Manchester United meet in the Champions' League quarter-finals in the new year?

Saturday Match-by-match guide to the Premiership. Danny Baker, Robert Elms and Oliver Holt.



John Goodbody uncovers a saga of unfair dealings at the highest level of table tennis

## 'Having him as chairman is like a timebomb waiting to explode'

The world of sport will be shaken today by revelations that one of England's leading officials is accused of exploiting a blatant conflict of interest between his business activity and his sporting duties.

Alan Ransome, appointed OBE last year and a member of the powerful National Olympic Committee under the presidency of the Princess Royal, remains chairman of the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA), a post that he has held since 1991, despite being a director of a company that negotiates equipment contracts with his own national governing body.

After a series of complaints about Ransome's dual role from aggrieved rival manufacturers and with millions of pounds of lottery money being poured into the sport, the English Sports Council (ESC) has been forced to act. In the past year, the ESC has ordered the ETTA to change its rules so that Ransome cannot nominate his own vice-chairman, who make up the management committee, running the sport. However, his own evident conflict of interest remains because he is still the ETTA chairman and also managing director of Ransome Sporting Goods, the distributor in Britain for Butterfly, the international equipment and clothing company.

Everyone in the sport knows of Ransome's double role, which many consider has damaged table tennis in the 1990s. This is a decade in which England has staged both the world and European championships, although only thanks to the support of more than £1 million of public money and also cash from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts.

Many of the most valuable deals in the 1990s, such as those at the world and European championships, have gone to Butterfly.

Ransome maintains that he has stuck to the rules regarding ETTA members. "When a matter in which they have a financial interest is raised, they must always declare their interest and leave the meeting until it is concluded. I have always followed this ruling," he said. Certainly the ETTA members did not seem overly concerned at any potential conflict of loyalties as, in 1991, he was elected national chairman, despite internal opposition.

Ransome promised to set up a trade committee to administer any business in which he was considered to have commercial interest. He has also pointed out that he "has had no opportunity to attend meetings or any involvement in its nominations or elections, thus ensuring that any 'potential' conflict did not become a 'real' conflict of interest."

However, his election still worried other manufacturers and distributors and they were right to be concerned. In 1991, in *Harpers Sport Magazine*, Ransome already elected ETTA chairman, stated: "Butterfly is far and away the mar-

ket leader in the specialist segment." As regards provision of tables, he added: "Butterfly is again, probably, the market leader while, within the hobby market, Schlicker is the likely leader in the supply of table tennis balls." His company is also the distributor of Schlicker balls in Britain.

This brought an outraged letter from Merrick Wolman, managing director of Halex, whose table tennis balls are internationally renowned. He wrote that these words were "clearly an abuse of his position as chairman of the ETTA".

By 1993, the trade committee itself was voicing concerns at Ransome's dual role, suggesting that he "may be using his position as ETTA chairman to gain a competitive advantage for his commercial interests".

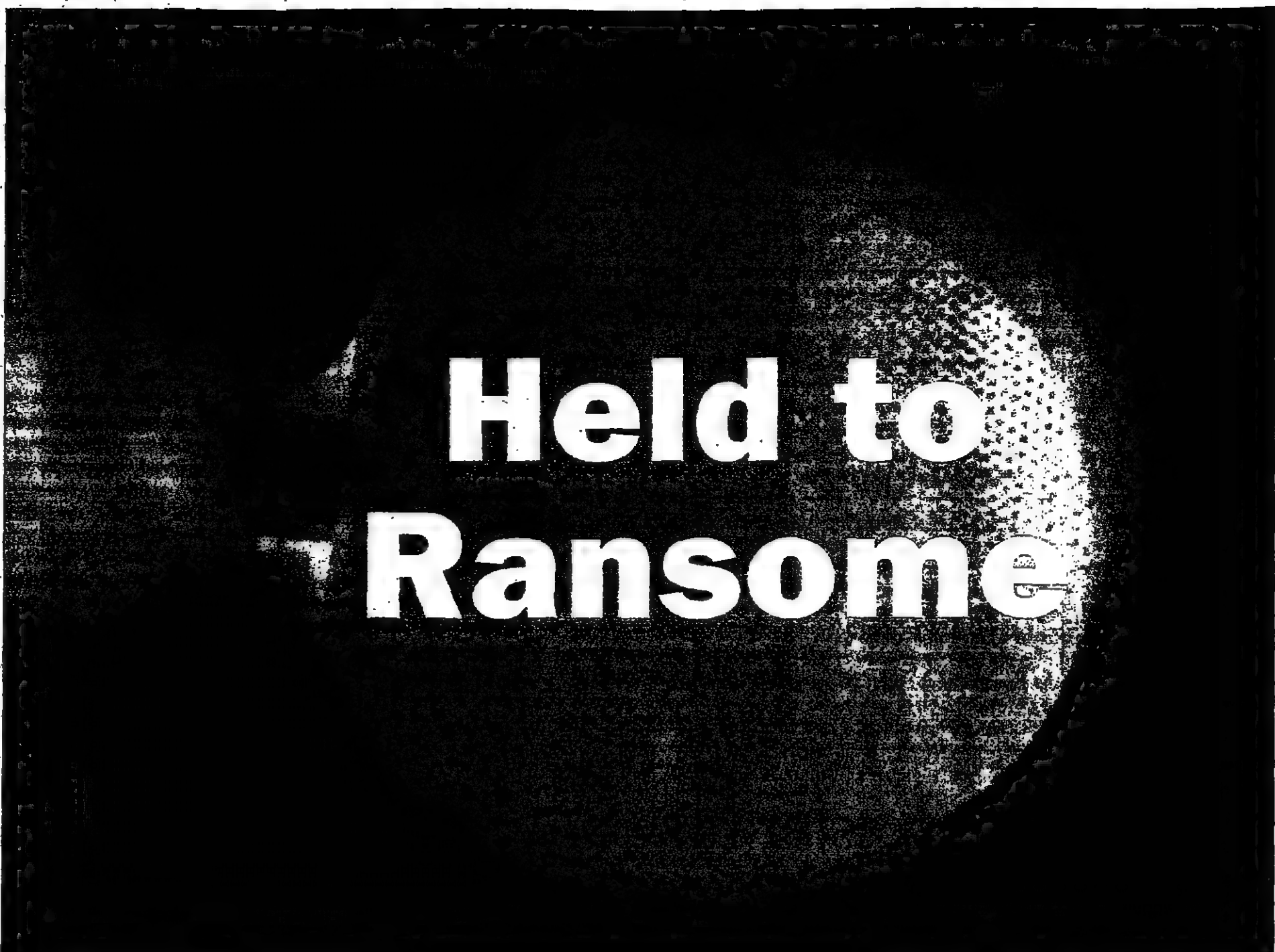
At this time, negotiations over the England team clothing contract were taking place for the 1994 European championships in Birmingham. Harvey Webb, the chairman of the trade committee, said that he had been "hoodwinked" by Ransome to Butterfly's advantage, as the company had to have six months' notice on the use of a sponsor's name and the ETTA lost crucial time in approaching other companies.

**'His election worried rival manufacturers and distributors — they were right to be concerned'**

Ransome disputes Webb's version of events.

Webb also raised his concern over the Euro '94 poster that featured a player wearing a Butterfly shirt with the logo being very prominent and that "other traders could have justifiable complaint". It subsequently turned out that the poster was not produced by the ETTA or the executive committee for the European championships, but by Ransome himself, paid for by the governing body.

Tenders to supply equipment for these championships had been sent out in 1992 but several trading companies voiced concern about the procedure. After an inquiry, the ETTA council pronounced itself satisfied. What it did not discover was that negotiations continued with Butterfly after the sealed bids were opened. Three companies, Joola, Cornilleau UK Ltd and Tamasu Butterfly Europa GmbH, the German arm of Butterfly, put in sealed bids. Joola offered a loan of equipment and £50,000 in cash. Cornilleau offered some services, promotional support and £57,000. Butterfly's sealed offer was different. Its original bid quoted no cash whatsoever but offered to pay entirely in provision of 330 table tennis tables, which the governing body



# Held to Ransome



Alan Ransome with his OBE for services to table tennis

would then sell. After the three bids were opened, Ransome began negotiating for Butterfly against the governing body of which he himself was chairman. Butterfly finally concluded an agreement with the ETTA for £65,000 in cash and a loan of equipment for the championships and also for 50 per cent of the national events for the next three years.

Ransome denies that he has ever known what the two offers from rival companies were. However, the fact that negotiations continued after the sealed bids were opened, meant that the basis for bidding between the three companies was not the same.

During the discussions over the equipment contract, Elaine Shaw, the ETTA chief executive, asked to withdraw because Ransome's use of his dual role was placing her in an invidious position. In fact,

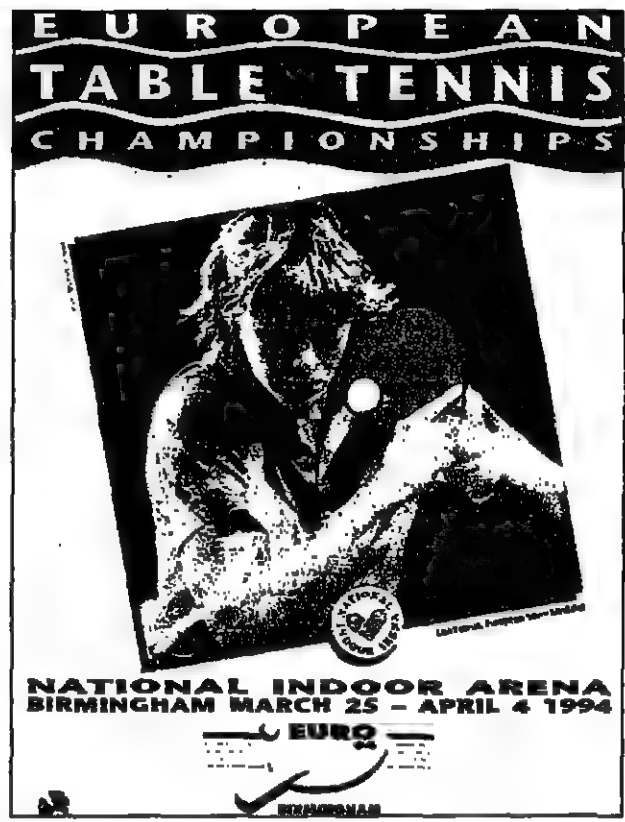
### ALLEGATIONS AGAINST RANSOME

- He unfairly used his position to talk up his company, Butterfly, as a market leader.
- There was a delay in securing potential sponsors of the 1994 European championships because of his actions.
- He produced an English Table Tennis Association poster for those European championships promoting his own company.
- He won a contract to supply equipment in 1994 by being able to continue negotiations after sealed bids had been opened.
- He negotiated compensation for his own company from the association of which he was chairman.
- In 1996, the English Table Tennis Association did not allow rival manufacturers time to bid for supplying tables.
- He failed to stop the appointment of a treasurer known to be unreliable.
- He was present when a printing company, which later went bankrupt, was given incorrect information in a business deal.

ble to make any offer because the normal lead-in time for the production of tables was six weeks, plus time for delivery. He complained that invitations had been sent out too late and that Butterfly had gained several weeks' advantage.

Ransome's dual role has continued to cause serious concern. Last year, Harvey Webb, a vice-president of the association since 1986, addressed a meeting of the national council, on the subject of Ransome's conflict of interests. He said: "Having Alan Ransome as chairman is a timebomb waiting to explode under this association."

Indeed, in the past two years, Ransome's reign has attracted even more controversy. The bad publicity aroused over the staging of the 1997



The notorious 1994 poster with prominent Butterfly logo

tered Accountants in 1995 had reprimanded Drapkin and fined him £5,000 for breaching its rules, and uncovered a series of misleading accounts. Referring to last year's election, Ransome said: "I did not have sufficient reason to object to Aubrey Drapkin's nomination. I was not responsible for initiating his nomination."

Even more damaging for the reputation of Ransome and the ETTA has been the dispute with Rainbow Press Ltd, a printing company in Loughborough, Essex, which published *Table Tennis News*.

The company had been printing the magazine since 1994 and it had often been told by the ETTA that it was selling 2,000 copies per issue. In 1996, Rainbow took over the publication as well as the printing of the magazine but discovered that the figure was nearer to 1,100. Rainbow claims that

Ransome was present at meetings involving the inaccurate figures, though Ransome denies this.

Nonetheless, Brian Halliday, the ETTA's vice-chairman of public relations, stated that Rainbow should receive £4,000 as compensation. They have never received it.

In 1996, there was a further meeting. Ransome is recorded as accepting that "misleading information was provided" but said it was "not deliberate". Later that year, Rainbow's solicitors issued a writ claiming losses of more than £36,000. Rainbow Press itself has gone into liquidation, owing about £200,000. Alan Ransome has trodden a fine line over many years. Clearly the time has come for him either to give up his business interests or to relinquish his position at the top of English table tennis.

## Unlimited devotion but limited delegation

Alan Ransome has had a long career in table tennis, nearly 40 years, and is now a member of the all-powerful National Olympic Committee, on which he sits with the top officials of all the other major international sports under the presidency of the Princess Royal.

His rise began with his successful campaign to become the chairman of the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) in 1991. He stated in his campaigning pamphlet that he was a member of the English senior team, something that he repeated when he supplied the information for the official 1996 Olympic handbook in Atlanta, where he was team manager.

Strictly speaking, this is true. However, what he did not say and only a few older people in the sport remember was that Ransome played for

### RANSOME'S LIFE

- Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association
- Director of seven companies, including Butterfly Table Tennis (UK) and Alan Ransome Sporting Goods Group
- Member, National Olympic Committee
- Appointed OBE, 1997

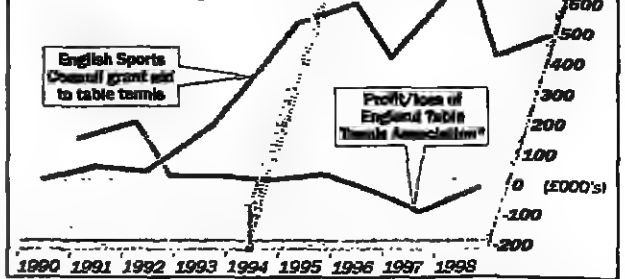
the England team on one occasion and in unusual circumstances. That was at the Commonwealth championships in 1971 and only occurred because he was drafted into the team since he happened to be in Singapore at the time of the event. When the team had been chosen the previous month, he was not ranked in

the top 12 in the country. Since he became chairman of the ETTA, he has devoted himself to the sport and is also the secretary of the British Olympic Table Tennis Committee.

As a businessman, Ransome is the director of seven companies, including Butterfly Table Tennis (UK) Ltd and Alan Ransome Sporting Goods Group Ltd, whose latest pre-tax profits for the year to June 30, 1997 were £101,000 on a turnover of £247 million.

In both business and table tennis administration, Ransome has a reputation for being a focused workaholic, often using at least two mobile phones simultaneously to make calls. However, one leading British sports official outside table tennis said: "His powers of delegation are limited and he seems to have to be involved in every deci-

### TABLE TENNIS: THE LOSSES AND THE BENEFITS

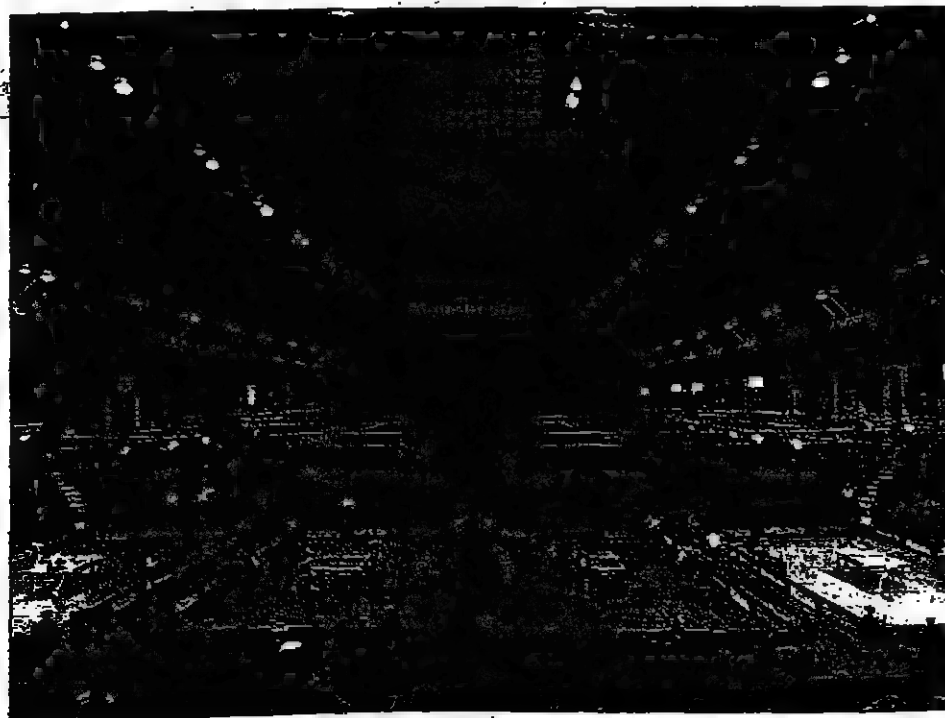


For each financial year ending March 31

In a governing body which employs professional staff, this stifles development and creates tensions. Ransome, 52, is married to Jose, a former chief executive of the Canadian Table Tennis Association, who is an excellent public relations officer for her husband, taking boxes of chocolates on his behalf to

workers at the 1997 world championships. That year he was appointed OBE for services to table tennis.

The Ransomes live modestly in a detached house in a salubrious part of Middlesbrough. He has two main indulgences — large cars and a formidable appetite for fish and chips.



The losses from staging the 1997 world championships in Manchester were £750,000











## Selectors impose conditions on Main

STEPHANIE Main has been handed the one available British women's place in the European figure skating championships in Prague next month, but the National Ice Skating Association (NISA) has attached conditions to her selection (Angela Court writes).

Over the next few weeks, Main, the British champion, must perform complete run-throughs of her free programme in practice, including four different triple jumps within the programme, and reach an overall satisfactory level of fitness. She will be monitored weekly.

Main, and Tammy Sear, the national runner-up, were screened at the Centrum Arena in Ayrshire last Thursday when Main, 22, was suffering from influenza. She did not skate her free programme for the selectors, but did land four different triple jumps in front of them.

Kevin Bursey, the NISA national performance director, said: "Stephanie demonstrated outstanding jumps, the like of which haven't been seen from a British woman in recent years. But she must show that she can do them in her programme, because that's what is marked. The conditions are the same for all skaters in the national team."

## SPEED SKATING: VIOLENT IT WASN'T, BUT THERE WERE THRILLS AND SPILLS AT THE BRITISH SHORT-TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS



Lindsay, centre, who has Olympic ambitions, cut a graceful figure at Guildford

FOR all their claims to the contrary, there is no doubting that for a percentage of those who would call themselves lovers of sport, the thrill is not in the chase but in the fall, not in the pursuit of excellence but in the temporary, but usually decisive, loss of it. It is not the case, how else would such an otherwise utterly pointless exercise such as stock-car racing, where destruction is all, draw such large crowds?

These are the late 20th century equivalents of those who, in another time and place, could not wait to be fed their weekly dose of Christians against the lions. If these people wanted a proper sport to follow that would still satisfy their bloodlust, they could do worse than try short-track speed skating.

Short track is something of a hybrid sport, looking for a place to call its home. It demands high levels of technical ability, is thrilling to watch and, in its vivid celebration of youthful athleticism, offers high levels of competitive endeavour. And, by the by, it also has some absolutely

smashing crashes. In that respect, it compares with another winter sport, downhill skiing. The disadvantage of downhill is that you have to climb halfway up a mountain a long way away to watch people falling over. Over the weekend, to see short track at its best on the domestic stage, it was necessary to travel up further than Guildford.

The splendid Spectrum Centre was the venue for the Eucurin British championships on Friday and Saturday and, to paraphrase the sage, to be bored with the experience was to be bored with life. All this in an arena that measures no more than 65 yards by 25. Traditionally, the headliners in the sport are male — the trailblazer for the British branch was Wilf O'Reilly, who won Olympic gold, and the glamour figure these days is Nicky Gooch, who claimed his sixth British title but not, as though to prove that even heroes can lose their grip, before coming a spectacular

cropper on the last lap of the 1,000 metres final. For all that testosterone, in all probability, will continue to rule in short track for a while yet, the girls are quietly making a name for themselves. Debbie Palmer, 25, an engaging, fast-talking university graduate, has dominated the women's disciplines for some time — she won her ninth British title at Guildford — but suddenly she is being faced with competition.

Second to Palmer was Joanna Williams and third Sarah Lindsay, attractive personalities who share, beneath their veneer of teenage enthusiasm, a case-hardened determination to make their mark. What each wants is nothing less than Olympic gold. And if time is not on Palmer's side — she will be 29 before she can take a tilt at the title in Salt Lake City in 2002 — Williams and Lindsay will then be in their prime.

Close friends off the ice and unyielding rivals on it, they

insist that the crown of crowns is a legitimate aim. Lindsay is burdened by her governing body's description of her as "a blonde bombshell", but the connotations of endearing daffiness that go with the sobriquet are not for her. She is assuredly extrovert and loquacious and there is no mistaking her desire to make her sporting mark. "I am prepared to work as hard as necessary to achieve my ambition," she said. "And if that means giving up things that some of my friends enjoy, that's OK by me."

Williams, in her last year at school and preparing for her A levels, is quieter, more considered in her opinions but no less resolved to be the best. "I just live for racing," she said, and meant it, too.

The skaters entertained royally on two days that deserved bigger audiences. They had determination, grace and power. In comparison, beaten up and battered Ford Escorts being driven into each other in some dilapidated speedway stadium, look ridiculous.

## THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

## GOLF

## Thomson plots downfall of lacklustre US

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MELBOURNE

IN THE end it was no contest. The International team won the Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne by 20½ points to 11½, overwhelming a much-vaunted United States side that lacked inspiration and had lost the match with ten of yesterday's twelve singles still out on the rain-soaked course.

It was a triumph for Peter Thomson, the international team captain, a meticulous planner, whose global mixture of a side — seven nationalities in all — played inspired stuff, holding chips and putts galore.

"It's very emotional," Thomson, who comes from Melbourne, said after watching Nick Price secure the victory by defeating David Duval on the 17th after Craig Parry had seen off Justin Leonard, the former Open champion, by 5 and 3.

"The first two matches were very important and I had a bulldog in good form 'up front' Thomson, 69, who won the Open on five occasions, said of Parry. "Nick is very strong. You can rely on him and I knew he would give a good account of himself. It was a great honour to be invited to be captain and it is the biggest thing I suppose I've ever done."

Jack Nicklaus, the US captain, who was also in charge of the losing Ryder Cup team in 1987, was gracious in defeat but his singles line-up indicat-

ed that he had accepted that the game was up before the last day dawned cool and very wet.

The US had lost every one of the first four series of four-somes and four-balls to trail by 14½-5½ and needed a miracle. Nicklaus, though, with the world's top four players at his disposal, tucked three of them away in the last four matches. Tiger Woods was eleventh and Mark O'Meara, the man of the season, was last.

They ended up playing in an exhibition... a dead rubber, Woods against Greg Norman and O'Meara against Stuart Appleby that provided entertainment for the big galleries and the TV audience, but the outcome mattered not a jot.

Tim Finchem, commissioner of the US Tour, who had to have his arm twisted to move this event away from Washington, commented that it means more to the internationals to beat the US than vice versa and Nicklaus seemed to agree. "All the nerve and competitive 'knockout' came from the internationals, for whom Shigeki Maruyama, a chunky Japanese, who won all five of his games — the only 100 per cent player — was a revelation. It meant something to him and he showed it."

Perhaps it was just too near Christmas for the Americans, far from home at the end of a long season.

## ICE HOCKEY

## Panthers prolong misery of Eagles

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

AYR Scottish Eagles completed a miserable 12 days on Saturday, suffering their third defeat in as many competitions. At the beginning of this month, they came within a minute of qualifying for the next stage of the European League, only to concede a late goal to Mannheim. Last weekend, they were narrowly beaten in the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup by Nottingham Panthers and, on Saturday, they travelled to Nottingham, hoping to make amends in their Sekonda Superleague encounter.

The Panthers won 4-0 to stay in contention for the league, while the Eagles find themselves in sixth place, only a point above Sheffield Steelers, the bottom club.

All the goals came in the first period. Jason Weaver scoring his first for the Panthers after only four minutes. A little more than five minutes later, Paul Adey pounced on a rebound while the Panthers were on a power play and Jamie Leach scored twice before the end of the period, his second the result of an errant pass out of defence. Mike Zanier, the Panthers' back-up goaltender, managed to save all 27 shots that came his way to register his first league shut-out.

Jim Lynch, the Eagles

coach, must be wondering what he can do to stop the rot. His team has won only once in their past eight league and cup games and the heady days of last season, when they won all four domestic competitions, must seem a lifetime away.

Darcy Loewen, who was handed a three-game suspension after a kneeing infraction in the game in Manchester last Sunday, played for the Panthers, pending an appeal.

Dennis Shasse, of the Bracknell Bees, could also face suspension after being ejected from the Superleague fixture against Manchester Storm on Saturday.

Early in the third period, with Manchester leading 3-1, he clashed with Rick Brehant and was given a match penalty for a kneeing offence. The Storm won 4-1 to stay top of the table, six points ahead of the Devils, having played two games more.

Jeff Jablonski scored the only goal of the first period to give the Storm an early lead and although Paxton Schulte equalised for Bracknell early in the second session, Jablonski restored Manchester's lead within three minutes. Goals by Pierre Allard and Kelly Askew gave Manchester the points and their seventh successive league win.











**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]



## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

## TODAY

**Interims:** Druck Holdings, Europower, NRP, Physu, Shield Diagnostics. **Finals:** API group, Hardys & Hansons, Fountain Forestry, Kunnick, Vaux Group, Waterfall Holdings. **Economics:** BoJ Tankan survey, UK November producer price index.

## TOMORROW

**Interims:** Bateys, Boustead, Computerland, MFI Furniture. **Finals:** First Choice Holidays, Hawin, Leeds Group, NRC. **Economics:** Bank of Japan monetary policy board meeting, Japanese November crude steel output, Finnish November Consumer Price Index, Spanish November Consumer Price Index, UK November retail price index, UK EEF 3 months to November engineering pay data, US November Consumer Price Index.

## WEDNESDAY

**Interims:** Baggeridge Brick, Phonelink, Carpetright. **Finals:** Securicor. **Economics:** Japanese October current account figures, UK November labour market report, UK November public sector finances, US November housing start, US November industrial production.

## THURSDAY

**Interims:** Asda, Jones Stroud Holdings, McKay Securities, Parmesan International Capital, Universal Salvage. **Finals:** Legal & General Recovery Investment Trust. **Economics:** Bank of Japan monthly report, Bank of Japan Governor's news conference, UK November retail sales, UK CBI December industrial trends survey, US October trade data, US weekly jobless claims report.

## FRIDAY

**Interims:** Harveys Furnishing, Meconic. **Finals:** None scheduled. **Economics:** UK November provisional M4, UK November bank lending data, UK November final MO, UK November car output.

## COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

## Little change in Asda shopping



Allan Leighton is expected to have totted up a higher dividend despite a slowdown in sales

**ASDA:** A slowdown in like-for-like sales growth is on the cards when Britain's fourth-biggest food retailer unveils half-year results on Thursday. Certainly, there is unlikely to be much in the way of fireworks profits-wise with brokers such as BT Alex Brown forecasting £195 million at the pre-tax level. That compares with £190 million last time. The range is £192 million to £205 million. Earnings a share are unlikely to be much altered at about 4.9p.

Rising costs will feature prominently with capital expenditure also set to grow to about £500 million, although only four new stores are scheduled to be opened during the forthcoming year. In addition, the group's northern bias makes it more vulnerable than its main rivals to the slowdown in consumer spending.

Brokers are becoming increasingly sceptical about the group's ability to offset the rising cost base with sales growth expected to have fallen to its lowest level for five years. Indeed, the slowdown at Asda, headed by Allan Leighton, the chief executive, is likely to be greater than the sector average, which could rattle sentiment and undermine the shares.

As a result, brokers have been steadily downgrading their expectations for the full year. BTAB recently reduced its forecast from £434 million to £422 million, its second downgrade in three months. Despite a pedestrian performance, the half-year payout to shareholders is still expected to grow from 0.91p to 0.95p.

**MFI FURNITURE GROUP:** There are few surprises in store when the furniture retailer unveils interim results tomorrow.

Back in September, the group told shareholders at the AGM that retail sales in the first 21 weeks of the year were down 10 per cent.

The general view among brokers is that the situation will have deteriorated even further. The group immediately embarked on a restructuring involving 1,500 job losses.

Pre-tax profits should come in at about £12 million, down from

£35.4 million last time with earnings collapsing almost 70 per cent from 4.2p to 1.5. Despite the setback to earnings, the interim payout is likely to be pegged at 1.8p.

Last year's results contained exceptional costs relating to the relocation of its Southampton packaging plant and the closure of its German interest.

Brokers will find little to glean from the figures and will therefore concentrate their energies on the group's change of strategy. It is currently undergoing an extensive store refit. But margins con-

tinue to suffer, reflecting the group's policy of free delivery.

**CARPETRIGHT:** There has been little for the carpet retailers to cheer about this year. Their performance has been clouded by a dramatic drop in sales that has led to a series of profit warnings. It is likely to be much of the same when Lord Harris's Carpetright unveils interim results on Wednesday.

Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at between £10 million and £12 million, down from £16.1

million last time. Earnings a share will also have declined by about 25 per cent to 10.6p, which will be why the payout is pegged at 9.5p.

The focus of interest for brokers will be on like-for-like sales that are expected to be down about 4 per cent, although overall sales will be up, reflecting the number of new stores opened in the second half of last year and the first six months of this year.

It is hoped like-for-like sales of the Carpet Depot will have improved. Despite increased competition and the pressure on sales,

gross margins should have been maintained. But operating margins will be lower, reflecting the drop in like-for-like sales and the increased cost base.

The group is continuing to try to bring costs under control but with many of them fixed, its scope for manoeuvre appears limited. Last month, it spent £12 million buying 27 shops from rival its Allied Carpets. Their contribution to profits this time round will be minimal. Brokers are hopeful of a recovery in profits in the second half, but that compares with a lacklustre performance in the corresponding period last year.

**NFC:** The steady growth in its contract portfolio should provide a timely boost to underlying profits when the logistics and removal specialist publishes final results tomorrow.

Pre-tax profits are estimated to come in at between £122 million and £130 million, up from £115.6 million last time, with earnings a share growing from 10p to 10.7p.

Revenue growth from logistics will be strongest in the US, where operating profits will be up about £5 million at £32 million. A solid performance should also be achieved in Europe.

NFC has already indicated its intention of paying a 5p dividend, down 30 per cent on last year after taking into account the capital reconstruction.

**SECURICOR:** Final results from the group on Wednesday will no doubt further fuel speculation about the sale of the group's 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, the mobile phone operator, to BT, its joint venture partner.

An earlier attempt was blocked by the last Conservative Government. Brokers say it can only be a matter of time before that decision is reversed. As a result, they have already put a price tag on the stake of £1 billion-plus.

Pre-tax profits are expected at between £90 million and £100 million which compares with £31 million last time. Once again the contribution from Cellnet will provide the main drive for profits. The payout is set to grow from 1.74p to 2p.

## Focus is on retail data

While the markets continue to digest the Bank of England's rate-cut last week and as the Christmas slowdown approaches, the slew of economic data to be released this week is expected to receive a relatively muted response. The retail prices index due out tomorrow and retail sales figures for November, due on Thursday, are likely to be the highlights of the week. Evidence of continued weakness in high street spending in recent months contributed to the Bank's decision to ease rates again, and market watchers will want to see how the latest data supports or contradicts the Bank's move.

November usually sees a flat RPI or a small rise, with pre-Christmas discounting of alcohol offsetting post-sales rises in the prices of clothing and household goods. Economists expect both retail gauges to remain unchanged, with the RPIX giving an annual increase of 2.5 per cent and RPI giving a 1.8 per cent annual rise.

Producer prices will be released today. The unadjusted "wide" measure of producer output prices eased by 0.2 per cent in October to give an annual rise of 0.1 per cent, the smallest year-on-year increase since March 1990. Economists expect another 0.2 per cent decline in November and the seasonally adjusted "core" measure unchanged, with a 0.4 per cent slide.

The CBI Industrial Trends survey for December, due out on Thursday, should show a modest rise in the output expectations balance. November's survey showed only a tiny improvement in output expectations, despite reductions in base rates.

There will be opportunity for greater insight into the labour market when unemployment figures come out on Wednesday. Recent labour market statistics have presented a mixed picture, but most economists believe that claimant unemployment rose by 7,800 in November, with some estimates as high as 10,000, a marked rise on last month's 6,800 increase.

KIMBERLY McDONALD

**The Mail on Sunday:** Buy Litho Supplies, Perimmon, Pemberton. **The Express on Sunday:** Buy Drew Scientific, Fieldens, Royal Bank of Scotland, Imperial Tobacco. **Sell Aldays:** The Sunday Times. **Buy Caradon, Landround, Fountain Forestry, GUS, Flare Group:** Sell RJM Mining. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy Minerva, Clinton Cards, Babcock International, Ask Central, Asda. **Sell Queensborough Holdings.**

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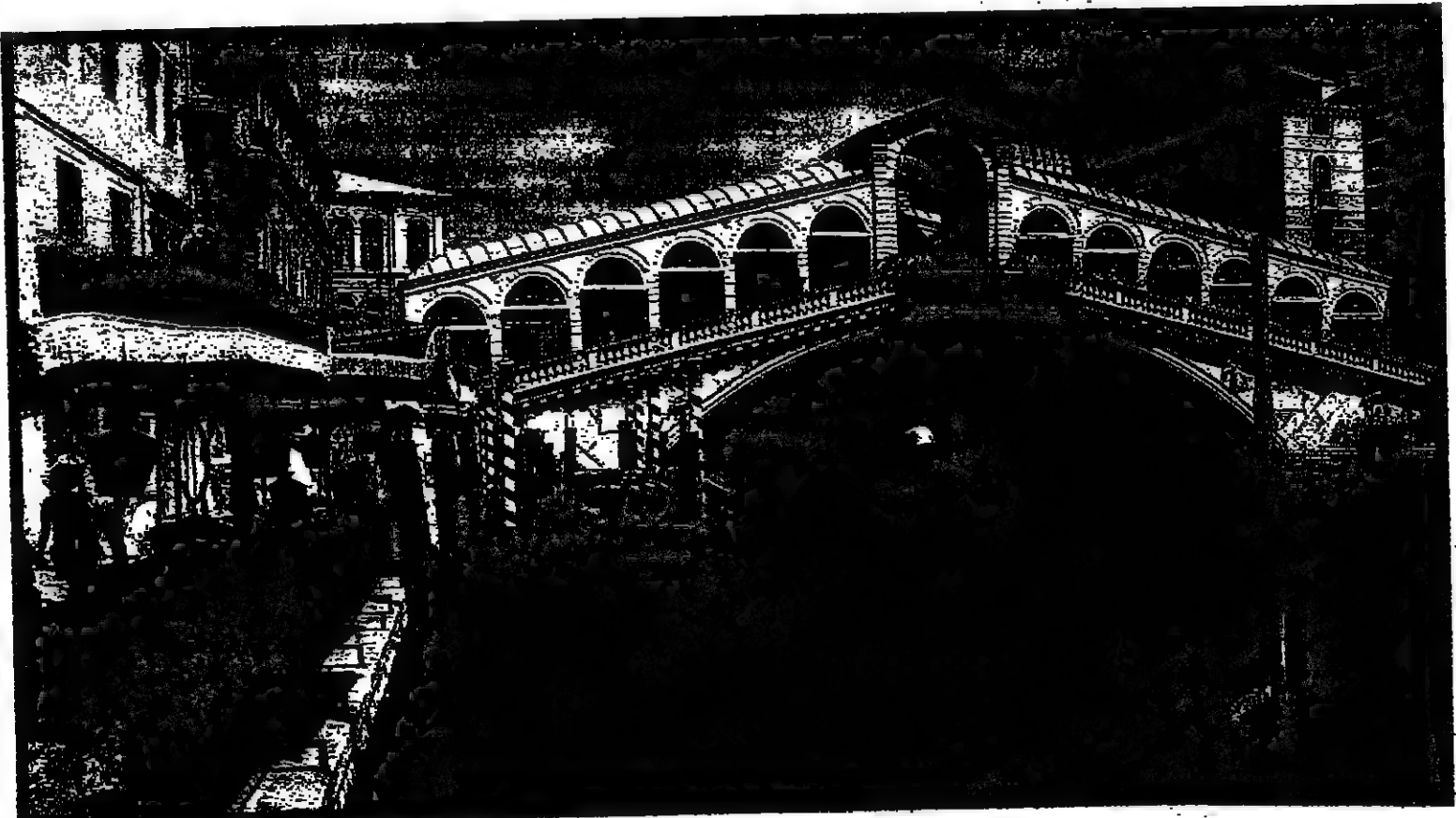
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**CHANGING TIMES**



# Mandelson puts emphasis on high-tech sector

By Chris Ayres and Alasdair Murray

PETER MANDELSON, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will this week present a White Paper to Parliament outlining plans to modernise the British economy by focusing on "knowledge-based" industries, and encouraging trade over the Internet.

The White Paper will mark a fundamental shift in the Department of Trade and Industry's approach away from regional aid towards fostering the development of high-tech industries.

Mr Mandelson will also announce moves to encourage long-term scientific research, including the Government's £1.4 billion investment in the Wellcome Trust, the medical charity.

Other plans to be outlined in the White Paper will include the creation of Enterprise Centres in universities. Mr Mandelson is expected to emphasise that Britain has a poor record of turning discoveries into viable commercial products and will devise ways of encouraging successful start-up companies and spreading an "American spirit of enterprise".

Mr Mandelson will also present proposals to help smaller companies to share more information with each other. Mr Mandelson's enthusiasm for "business-to-business learning" follows recent successful DTI initiatives to bring top Japanese engineers to the UK to meet automotive suppliers.

The Confederation of British Industry has already given its broad support to Mr Mandelson's aims, but gave warning that the test would be turning good words into action.

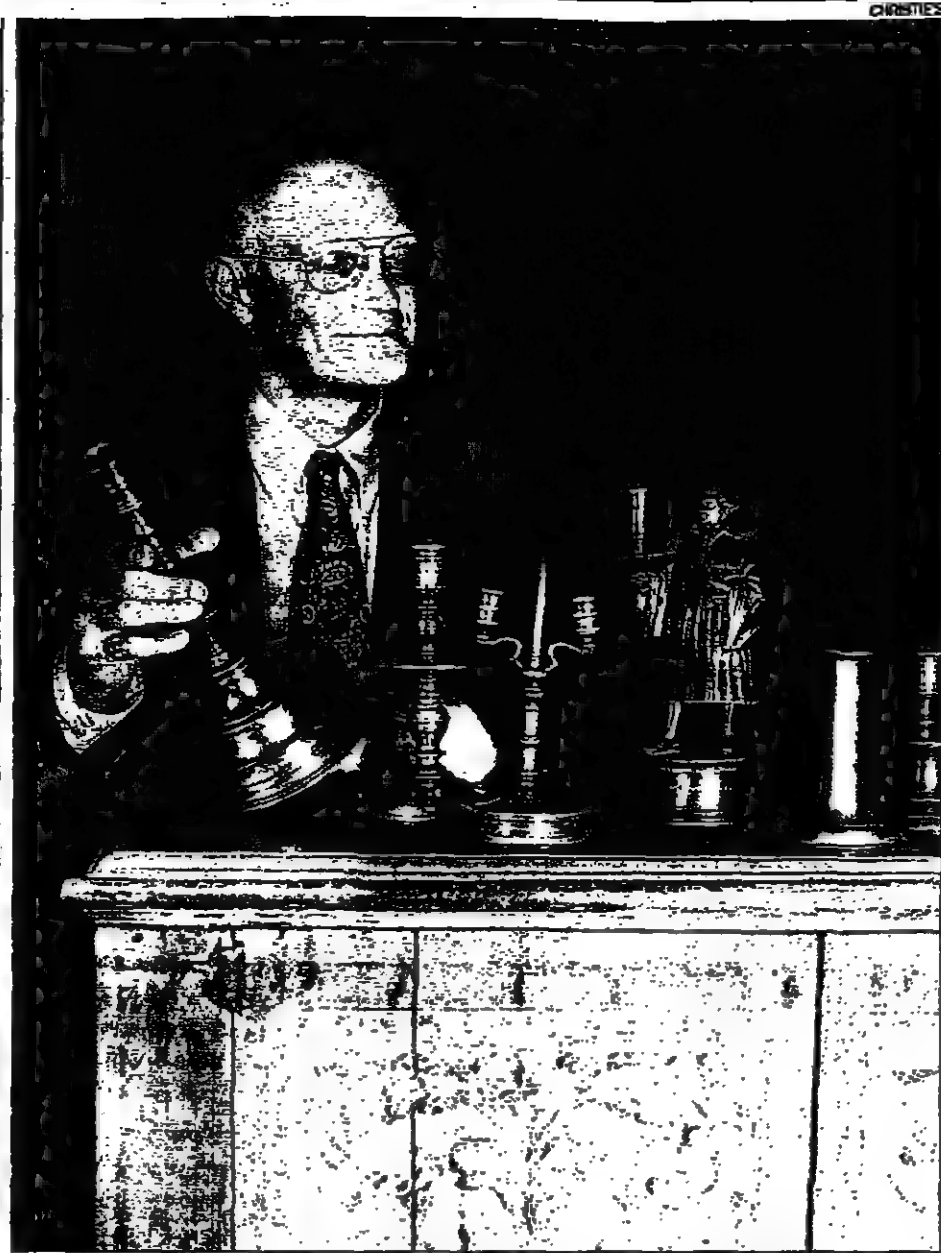
Peter Agar, deputy director-general of the CBI, said: "The White Paper needs a focus. The Government also needs to inject a sense of urgency into its support for electronic commerce and ensure that the promised extra science money is properly managed."

As part of the White Paper, Mr Mandelson is expected to announce a fundamental overhaul of the DTI's £1 billion a year programme budget in an effort to find savings for new projects. The £120 million a year currently provided for regional assistance has been especially earmarked for savings.

In spite of Mr Mandelson's insistence that the paper will not mark a return to the "corporatism" of the 1970s, the DTI is expected to take a far more proactive role within the Government, with Mr Mandelson keen to end the perception that all economic policy is being formulated by the Treasury.

Mr Mandelson also wants his department to work more closely with the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions and the Department for Education and Employment on competitiveness issues. In particular, Mr Mandelson is considering appointing a specific minister charged with trying to remove the "obstacles and barriers" to clusters of high-tech companies.

Mr Mandelson is also this week expected to confirm that the DTI will publish a consultation paper on whether ultimate responsibility for mergers and acquisitions rulings should be removed from the hands of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and given to an independent authority.



Bud Lear with some of the socket candlesticks being auctioned at Christie's tomorrow

## Antique candlesticks go under the hammer

By Clare Stewart

SOME people like to collect stamps, some Picasso's, while others choose antique candlesticks.

Tomorrow, at Christie's in London, the Lear collection of socket candlesticks goes under the hammer. With Christmas looming, the firm of auctioneers is no doubt hoping that its first such specialist sale will attract buyers in search of an original gift.

F. R. "Bud" Lear III, an American businessman, is selling his current collection of nearly 200 candlesticks,

dating from the 13th to the 18th century. They have been acquired over the past ten years and are expected to fetch more than £500,000 at auction.

Mr Lear runs Industrial Engraving, his family business, in Pennsylvania and is a life-long collector, having first started at the age of nine, with lamps and lanterns.

"I have always had a fascination with early lighting of all types. I was drawn to the candlestick as something with extraordinary value as a practical and decorative object."

Mr Lear said.

Together with many rare candlesticks, the sale includes candle snuffers and chambersticks — technically speaking a candlestick with a handle. Estimates range from £100 to more than £30,000.

Mr Lear is not snuffing out his interest in candlesticks entirely — they may feature in a new collection he is keen to start with the proceeds of the sale.

Details: Christie's 0171-839 9060.

## C&W braced for takeover speculation

By Chris Ayres

CABLE & WIRELESS, the telecoms and cable group, is braced for intense speculation this week over a possible break-up deal or foreign takeover bid after last week's shock departure of the company's chief executive.

Dick Brown, chief executive at C&W for two years, announced last week that he was leaving to join Electronic Data Systems, the US information technology group. During Mr Brown's time at C&W, he pushed through a comprehensive restructuring of the company, including the disposal of more than £1 billion worth of non-core assets.

Mr Brown's departure has underlined the poor performance of the London-listed company's shares, which closed on Friday at just 695p. It is thought C&W's shares could be worth significantly more if the company was broken up.

C&W is also thought by some to be a takeover target, with interest likely to come from Bell Atlantic of the US and Germany's Deutsche Telekom. France Télécom is also seen as a potential suitor, while British Telecom — which has held merger talks with C&W before — is not thought to be interested in buying the whole company.

Meanwhile, speculation will heighten over who will replace Mr Brown. Rod Olsen will become caretaker chief executive after Mr Brown's departure, although he is not seen as a long-term replacement. Mr Olsen played a similar role at C&W following a hugely damaging boardroom spat before the appointment of Mr Brown two years ago. There is speculation that David Oetle, head of Esprit Telecom, could be a candidate to replace Mr Brown, after the recent takeover of Esprit by Global TeleSystems.

Asked if C&W was likely to be broken up, a company insider said: "All the City guys are going to be speculating on everything and anything. But C&W has been here before and so has Rod Olsen."

Mr Brown's most notable deal was merging Mercury Communications with three British cable companies to create Cable & Wireless Commu-

nications in a £5 billion transaction. Mr Brown was also responsible for buying the entire Internet assets of MCI in July.

Although Mr Brown, a 50-year-old American, is widely respected in the industry, there is thought to be some anger within C&W that he did not give the company more notice before leaving. "There was certainly a degree of surprise," a source told *The Times*. It is thought that C&W's board learnt of Mr Brown's departure only hours before it was announced.

## Pinochet claim riles Vickers

Vickers, the tank manufacturer, has angrily denied a report that controversy over the arrest of General Augusto Pinochet has cost it a £100 million order for bridge-laying equipment. A spokeswoman denied that any such deal, to provide support vehicles for Chilean tanks, was in prospect. There had been "vague" soundings-out from Chile's military some months back, she said.

"The inquiries never came to anything," she said. "There was no link to Pinochet at all."

## Investors vote on Kingfisher deal

Shareholders will vote this week on a planned merger of Kingfisher's B&Q arm and Castorama Dubois Investments of France. The two companies said that the French Stock Exchange had issued documentation connected with the merger and that voting would take place on Thursday and Friday.

A special meeting of Kingfisher shareholders is to be held in London on Thursday. Castorama investors are to meet in Lille on Friday.

## BG plans Transco demerger

BG HAS drawn up plans to demerge its Transco gas pipeline main business from its global oil and gas exploration and production (E&P) business to allow the latter to stand alone (Martin Waller writes). But no such exercise is contemplated while the price of oil remains low.

BG was itself spun out of the old British Gas, along with Centrica, two years ago, and the demerger has been counted a success internally, prompting plans for a second. There is no apparent link between the pipeline business, which owns Britain's gas mains, and the E&P side.

A weekend report suggested a demerger could come in the new year, but sources close to BG say none is imminent. A separate E&P operation would have difficulty surviving alone in today's markets, and with even the biggest oil companies succumbing to merger fever it would be an immediate target for a takeover or some other consolidation. But a demerger, for which plans have been drawn up by BG's management and financial advisers, would throw off as much as £5 billion to be paid back to shareholders or reinvested to be used for acquisitions. "It is one option," said a company adviser. "But we wouldn't think of it when E&P companies are flat on their backs."

## Tarmac deal expected soon

By Martin Waller

A MERGER between Tarmac and Aggregate Industries to create a £2 billion force in the building materials industry could come as early as this week after renewed speculation over the weekend.

The two are known to be in talks, and other companies in the industry including RMC and CRH of Ireland are also interested in cementing a relationship with Tarmac.

But Aggregate is now thought to be in pole position, even though Tarmac is keen to keep talks with other parties going. Tarmac refused to make

any comment last night on weekend reports that a deal was imminent. If it comes, it is thought that Sir Neville Simms, Tarmac's chairman, would chair the merged group and Peter Tom, Aggregate's chief executive, would be in charge of the day-to-day business in the same role.

The remaining stumbling blocks are the attitude of the competition authorities and any disposals they might require and the fate of Tarmac's construction arm, which would not sit well in a merged business.

## Unilever may return cash

By Martin Waller

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch food and detergent group, will hand back a large chunk of its £4 billion cash pile if the company cannot find acquisition targets by the millennium.

The company will be pressed this week by shareholders over weekend reports that such a payout was being planned. Although Niall Fitzgerald, the chairman, is expected to announce some limited purchases in the Far East over the next few weeks, there is nothing in prospect of any size.

Mr Fitzgerald has made it clear in the past that he favours handing back cash to shareholders if no other use can be found for the money and it can be done in a tax-efficient way, particularly for Dutch shareholders who would face a serious tax bill.

Unilever has taken the view that the prices on offer for substantial consumer goods businesses are too high to be justified. As a result, the group's strong cash flow and the

near-£5 billion raised from last year's disposal of its specialty chemicals side has not been reinvested.

Prospects for handing back cash to shareholders, whether by a special dividend or a share buy-back, are also linked with the fate of Elizabeth Arden, Unilever's perfume operation. This has been underperforming in the US in particular, and there has been speculation of a sale. This would bring more cash on to the balance sheet.

## Ralph Lauren sues Littlewoods

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent



Lauren's strict control

LITTLEWOODS, the catalogue retailer, is being sued by Polo/Ralph Lauren for selling "grey market" branded goods sourced from outside the European Union.

The Liverpool-based company was served with a writ last week after Polo/Ralph Lauren took objection to the sale of its shirts in Littlewoods' autumn/winter catalogue. Littlewoods has no licensing agreement with Ralph Lauren, which like other big brand

names likes to keep a strict control on where its goods are sold. The case comes after a spate of similar cases, including the decision by Levis Strauss to sue Tesco and a number of other clothing retailers for selling 501 jeans bought on the unofficial "grey market" outside the EU. Unlicensed retailers usually source from third parties, or directly from US or Far Eastern manufacturers or retailers.

All of the cases are based on the Silhouette judgment made by the European Court of Justice in July. This ruling, concerning a brand of sunglasses, makes it unlawful for a British retailer to sell goods bought outside the EU. Tesco is attempting to challenge this ruling in the High Court.

Littlewoods said: "Our lawyers are reviewing the matter, and we would not therefore wish to make further comment at this stage."

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£100,000 - £499,999	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
£500,000 and over	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%

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Cyprus Cyp £	0.8650	0.7835
Denmark Kr.	11.24	10.25
EGP	5.81	5.30
Finland Mk.	8.57	8.22
France Fr.	9.77	8.99
Germany Dr.	2.534	2.092
Greece Dr.	490	451
Hong Kong \$	13.61	12.61
Iceland	125	106
Indonesia	16405	13405
Ireland Pt.	1.1700	1.0810
Israel Sh.	7.30	6.54
Italy Lit.	2318	2081
Japan Yen	211.49	193.96
Malta	0.663	0.604
Netherlands Gld.	3.514	3.019
New Zealand \$	3.35	3.11
Norway Kr.	13.47	12.53
Portugal Esc.	256.68	274.65
S Africa Rd.	10.53	9.67
Spain Ptas.	247.55	228.56
Sweden Kr.	14.31	13.21
Switzerland Fr.	2.386	2.168
Taiwan New \$	52.24	48.47
USA \$	1.783	1.640

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## Propaganda: "BA is more reliable than easyJet"

## Fact:

## Reliable easyJet beats big carriers

THE NO-FRILLS airline easyJet is regarded as a more reliable service by business travellers than major carriers such as British Airways, British Midland and KLM according to a new survey by Company Barclaycard, Stanley Slaughter writes.

Although these three leading airlines were the most used by U.K. business travellers, their regular fliers gave them the lowest mark for reliability.

While a third of easyJet regulars said its reliability was excellent, the corresponding figures for British Midland, KLM and BA, from their regulars were 29 per cent, 23 per cent and 22 per cent.

Its customers rating it excellent for in-flight service (59 per cent) and for quality of food (59 per cent). The respective figures for BA in these categories were 17 per cent, five and five.

Heavy hitters such as BA and KLM were also given further cause to worry with a majority of business travellers saying smaller airlines give better service and quality.

In last year's survey, 53 per cent said big airlines gave better service, with only 40 per cent plumping for the small players. But this year the figures are exactly reversed.

The number of women worried about security rose from 77 per cent to 86 per cent for men the figure was 68 per cent to 68 per cent.

The Daily Telegraph  
18/11/98 Pg 35.

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## THE FACTS

**Market Capitalisation:** £7.79 billion  
**Activities:** Supplies global financial markets and the media with real-time financial data, risk management systems and equity and foreign exchange transaction systems  
**Shares:** Year high 765½p, low 418½p, now 540p  
**Employees:** 2,035 in 169 bureaux serving 163 countries

## THE BOARD

Reuters has a strong board of directors under the chairmanship of Sir Christopher Hogg, the former chairman of Courtauld and current chairman of Allied Domecq. He is a director of SmithKline Beecham and a former director of the Bank of England.

The heavyweight non-executive team includes Robert Bauman, chairman of British Aerospace and BTR and former executive chairman of Bescor Group, Michael Groves, chairman of Carlton Communications and former chairman of ITN, and Sir David Walker, chairman of Morgan Stanley International and a member of the management committee of the board of Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter.

The other three non-executives are Sir John Craxie, former member of the board of managing directors of Deutsche Bank and chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Richard Oliver, a group managing director of BP, Charles Gluskin, group chief executive of the Daily Mail and General Trust, and Roberto Miodini, vice-chairman and a director of JP Morgan.

All six executive directors have worked at Reuters for some time and four of them, including chief executive Peter Job, joined as journalists. John Fennell worked as a journalist in Asia and Latin America before becoming a marketing and product manager. He has been responsible for the financial product line since 1996. David Uva, another former journalist, has been responsible for marketing and technical policy since 1992 and Andre Villeneuve, executive director, has headed Reuters geographical units since 1992.

Senior executives of Reuters with the financial services and international news agency group were a little less unusual. Reuters is not quite a conventional publisher, nor is it an ordinary media group, and its two most obvious peers — Bloomberg and Bridge, which has now absorbed both Telerate and ADP — are both private companies.

Lack of easy comparisons has meant that Reuters's shares have been much more volatile than they should have been, given its strong cashflow and asset base and its lack of debt. News, both good and bad, has tended to blow Reuters's shares about in a manner unjustified by fundamentals.

John Kenny, a media analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, who is positive about the company, says: "Reuters is one of the simplest stocks in the market to take a pop at. People are losing their jobs at Bankers Trust, and therefore it is bad news for Reuters. Sell Reuters."

So in recent months there has been no shortage of stories with a darker side that could affect the performance of the shares, and over the past two years Reuters has underperformed the FTSE 100 by about 45 per cent. The worries have been many and have usually had some substance even though the effects may have been overdone.

The list is headed by banking consolidation — the worldwide move towards fewer and larger banks exemplified by the merger of Bankers Trust and Deutsche Bank. This is often portrayed as bad for Reuters. Larger banks will sack employees and will need fewer screens, and so there will be fewer lucrative contracts for Reuters. The reality is not quite so simple.

The collapse of confidence in the Far East was also seen as bad news, along with any suggestion of economic slowdown. Meanwhile, as an international company, Reuters suffered a currency hit from the strong pound, although the effect is now easing.

Reuters has, for the past few years, suffered the effects, in Michael Bloomberg, of a one-man publicity machine who will do almost anything to keep the Bloomberg name up there. When this is combined with its sophisticated analytical tools, particularly for bond markets, Bloomberg is a formidable opponent and one that often makes Reuters look dull and bureaucratic by comparison.

The emergence of a Bridge-

## CORPORATE PROFILE



In the news: the famous Fleet Street address of Reuters, top; and, from left, Peter Job, chief executive, Andre Villeneuve, executive director, Bob Rowley, the finance director, and Sir Christopher Hogg, the chairman. The company has broken up its old structure to be more competitive

Telerate-ADP axis has emphasised the scope for competition — underlined when Merrill Lynch put Bridge machines in areas such as research.

Other newer companies — the latest is Moneyline — are emerging to try to take a bite out of Reuters's market share by offering cheaper, more targeted services. The arrival of the euro and the millennium bug have also proved fertile ground for bears.

Perhaps the most potentially damaging uncertainty hanging over Reuters this year has been the investigation of US Analysts, one of its American subsidiaries, by a grand jury. The allegation is that Bloomberg information was wrongly incorporated in Reuters's services.

Overarching all of this is the perceived threat from the Internet. Yet, except for the grand jury investigation — and there have been reports from the US that Reuters will be cleared of any serious infringements —

most of the negatives facing the company have, in fact, much more positive potential.

For example, Reuters could do well from the euro because the group will be transmitting financial news in all 11 languages of the euro nations. Clients still need the latest news during economic slow-

downs, indeed arguably more so, and anyway, most Reuters contracts are for four or even five years, bulls would argue.

Both Bloomberg and Reuters appear to be winning market share against Bridge and local vendors, and the news on banking consolidation might not be all bad either. Deutsche

Bank, for instance, is one of Reuters's largest customers, yet Bankers Trust has its own information system. Analysts expect that deal to lead to more screens for Reuters, not fewer.

Reuters even sees the Internet as positive in that it will let it tailor new products for a wider market, such as retail banks' small investor clients.

Peter Job, chief executive, accepts that there are issues that need attention, and he will be busy for the last three years of his reign — he is to retire at 60.

He says: "As far as the public is concerned, we are understood, but we need to do more as far as the investor community is concerned. But this will really only be solved when there is a recognised peer group of Reuters."

Job is even thinking of assembling his own peer group of companies from the information, newspaper and technology industries — partly at least for internal purposes. He concedes that Reuters has not

made the most of a strong brand even though its name appears in newspapers all over the world every day.

"Maybe we have taken it for granted a little, but too much and maybe we need to sharpen up the way we approach the projection of our brand without wishing to occupy a position of media power," says Job.

He must also help to organise an orderly transition to his successor. So far, John Parcell, who runs the financial information product line, and Bob Rowley, the finance director, seem to have their noses in front, but an external candidate cannot be excluded.

The most important legacy that Peter Job hopes to leave is a financially stronger company with improved margins and the extra room for manoeuvre such a performance gives. "What I would like to be able to do after my time is over is to say that the company has that room for manoeuvre, and to create that

room for manoeuvre by concentrating very strongly on the way it is run and structured for maximum value," he says.

That is why Job has broken up the old geographic structure of Reuters and reorganised the group around two businesses — information and technology — so that there will be identifiable bottom lines. The new structure will give Reuters much more information about the cost of its capital.

Reuters's technology division could even start creating extra revenue by generating technical leads that appeal to customers for reasons quite independent of the information being processed," says Job.

As part of this harder-nosed commercial approach, cost-cutting targets will be set to raise productivity and steps will be taken to raise prices in line with inflation rather than letting them drift in real terms.

All this is a sign that confidence is returning at Reuters after a bit of a battering. However, one thing will not change while Peter Job is in charge. Any large moves into consumer information and entertainment would have to await his departure. "Our products help people to do their work properly," he says. "It is less painful to buy services from us than to assemble all that information in some other way. Information for purposes other than work performance is something completely different."

Reuters scores well with our specialist consultancy for boardroom pay. Mr Job's £53,000 salary is less than two-thirds of the going rate, while the non-executive director's fee is in line with business ethics. But in terms of business ethics, there are a proliferation of policies but it is not clear if these fully reflect present-day thinking, says Integrity Works, the consultant.

RAYMOND SNOODY

Ethical expenditure	7/10
Pay-set quotient	10/10
Financial record	8/10
Share performance	8/10
Attitude to staff	8/10
Strength of brand	9/10
Innovation	7/10
Annual report	6/10
City star rating	7/10
Future prospects	8/10
Total	73/100

Ethical expenditure is evaluated by Integrity Works. The top 100 companies in the boardroom pay survey are ranked, as provided by Integrity Works.

## Watchdog signals success of New Deal for jobless

By MARTIN WALLER

THE Government's New Deal to help young unemployed people has hit its stride and as many as 40,000 young people have already left the scheme, mainly to jobs, an independent watchdog has claimed.

The Unemployment Unit and Youthaid claims the New Deal is on course to deliver a better outcome than any previous government initiative.

Paul Convery, a director of the watchdog, conceded that the

New Deal had had a slow start-up, with many unemployed people having spent longer than expected on the scheme. "But job entry rates and the numbers going into training are now pushing upwards rapidly and the programme is on course to do better than any previous scheme."

The body's analysis of the data so far available from the New Deal, which was piloted from January and launched nationally in April, showed that

168,000 young people had joined. Of these, 24 per cent, or 40,000, had already left, mainly to jobs. Another 30,000 had started one of the New Deal options, while the rest were in the "Gateway" preparatory programme. Mr Convery said the percentage of those leaving this phase was growing at a healthy rate.

But there were still glitches. Some areas, such as London, had performed badly. The Government will today

publish its own evidence, in the form of league tables showing how the scheme is working in different areas, to suggest that the New Deal is providing jobs. Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, says that since the Deal began 38,400 young people had gone into jobs and 22,430 into education and voluntary options.

"The true cost of the jobs secured so far is currently around £1,000 a job," he said.

## MPs seek cap on power prices

A PRESSURE group of MPs has written to John Birt, the Energy Minister, accusing the big power generators of increasing their prices by a quarter last year to pay for the one-off windfall tax (Martin Waller writes).

Denis MacShane, chairman of the Steel Group of MPs and Labour MP for Ketterham, is asking Mr Birt to bring in an immediate cap of £19 per megawatt hour on the amount the generators can charge. He says electricity prices are so high at some times of the day that steel production has to stop.

## Companies take longer with payment of bills

By MARTIN WALLER

COMPANIES are taking longer to pay their bills than six months ago as the economic downturn forces them to manage their cashflow better and delay paying suppliers, according to Experian, the business information service company.

The worst offenders are the water companies and the big banks, according to a survey from Experian. The latter on average take 82 days to pay suppliers. But the same banks, the company alleges, often pull the plug on small busi-

nesses that are in financial difficulties because their customers are not paying quickly enough.

Experian polled more than 212,000 companies. The results fly in the face of government efforts to persuade businesses to settle its bills on time. The problem is worse at larger companies, which "invariably" take longer than average to settle invoices.

"The average across all companies in Great Britain, regardless of size and industry,

is 58 days," said Peter Brooker at Experian. The average payment period has worsened since a similar survey in May, by almost a day.

This average, however, masks the fact that small and medium-sized companies take only 35 days to pay, while large ones take 72, two days longer than in the previous survey. "As the economy slows down, many companies are using their suppliers as unofficial bankers to help to improve their cashflow," Mr Brooker said.

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TERMS & CONDITIONS: Prices shown are per room based on one night stay, single or double occupancy, fully inclusive of breakfast service. Offer available at listed hotels between 1st December 1998 to 31st February 1999 (inclusive). All reservations subject to availability with a limited number of rooms available at these promotional rates. Bookings to be made at least 28 days in advance prior to arrival at hotel. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special promotion. \*50% discount represents savings against full rate. Posthouse Hotels reserves the right to amend this special offer at any time without prior notice. Any cancelled or guaranteed bookings cancelled after 30th day of arrival will be liable to a non-refundable charge of the best night's rate. All cancellations/changes will be refunded at 30th day of arrival. \*Not part of the Posthouse brand.

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# Japanese bank nationalised to shore up sector

FROM ROBERT WEYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN yesterday moved to shore up its wobbly financial sector by placing under state control Nippon Credit Bank (NCB), fatally crippled by a huge amount of bad loans.

Senior officials said the action had been taken to stave off a collapse that would have posed a threat to the country's entire banking sector. The move was in line with a government plan to remove weak banks from the sector by nationalising those unable to find merger partners.

The decision to nationalise NCB "temporarily" was taken by Keizo Obuchi, the Prime Minister, after he was advised by the nation's financial watchdog that the bank was virtually insolvent and unable to clean up its bad loan problem on its own.

The Financial Supervisory Agency (FSA) said its inspections had revealed a crippling depletion of the bank's financial resources, with potential losses exceeding total as-

sets. The agency estimated that Nippon Credit, one of Japan's two remaining long-term credit banks, had a capital deficit of 94.4 billion yen (£480 million) at the end of March this year.

Revealing the results of its inspections, the FSA said yesterday that NCB's irretrievable and potentially problem loans totalled 3,746 billion yen, well in excess of the 3,200 billion reported by the bank itself.

NCB became the second bank on the verge of collapse to come under state control under a government scheme to stabilise the fragile financial system. The Long-Term Credit Bank was nationalised on October 23.

Public funds will be used to keep NCB running, under government-appointed managers, and write off bad debts until a private sector buyer can be found for any still-viable operations. NCB's senior managers announced their resignation yesterday, after a last-

ditch written appeal disputing that the bank had a capital deficit.

Shigeoki Togo, NCB president, said later that he reluctantly accepted the government decision, which he called "extremely regrettable" and "over hasty".

But Hakuo Yananagisawa, the Financial Reconstruction Minister, told a news conference that the nationalisation of NCB was necessary to prevent a collapse that could have gravely undermined the entire banking sector.

"If nothing was done about [NCB's] capital deficit, it could cause damage to the financial system, and result in a severe loss of investor confidence," he said.

Urging depositors and investors to remain calm, Mr Obuchi gave assurances that all obligations of the bank would be met, including deposits, debentures, interbank borrowings and derivatives transactions.



Shigeoki Togo said he reluctantly accepted the Government's decision to nationalise NCB

## AFP under pressure after inspection

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

AGENCE France-Presse, the French press agency, faces a week likely to prove decisive in its attempt to avert financial disaster and to challenge the supremacy of Reuters.

The board of the world's third-biggest agency will meet in Paris tomorrow with Jean Miot, its chairman, under severe pressure after an official slap-down from government inspectors.

Miot will circulate a report warning that the French press agency is on course to accumulate a total deficit of 170 million (£11.5 million) by 2001 without radical restructuring. Agence France-Presse will be squeezed into an increasingly small niche by Reuters and Associated Press, of America, unless it finds new sources of revenue, he believes.

The chairman says in his report that he wants to reinforce a commercial team that includes just 11 members, with the appointment of new staff and a commercial director. Miot also proposes to strengthen Agence France-Presse in the key areas of multimedia, sport, economy and television.

About 200 of the agency's older staff will be encouraged to take early retirement, with younger and cheaper personnel replacing them at an annual saving of 100 million.

The proposals come after Miot was criticised by inspectors from the French Culture Ministry, who accused him of poor management and over-centralised control.

The report, which urged the swift adoption of an "efficient commercial policy", underlined the agency's hybrid nature — a handicap many believe to be at the heart of its difficulties.

Under the terms of a 1957 law which created a special statute that is unique to Agence France-Presse, it is an "autonomous organisation". It has no shareholders and no capital, must reinvest any profits and is forbidden, by law, from making a loss, with directors bound to present a balanced budget.

In practice, however, it is tied to the French Government, which supplies 46 per cent of its 1.2 billion budget through sub-

scriptions to ministries and other branches of the French administration. The Government will determine whether Miot remains in place when his term as chairman ends in February.

Critics say Agence France-Presse can only hope to compete with Reuters and Associated Press if it severs its links with the state. Reuters's turnover was more than ten times that of Agence France-Presse in 1997, and Associated Press's was almost twice the size.

## Business leaders in Nigeria

BY CARL MORTISHED

BRIAN WILSON, Minister for Trade, is in Lagos this week, leading the first British trade delegation to Nigeria for almost a decade.

The mission is intended as a signal of support to the efforts by President Abacha to restore democracy to Nigeria, while at the same time reinforcing business links with Africa's most populous country.

Relations suffered under the regime of General Sani Abacha, when the country was expelled from the Commonwealth after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer and activist.

Exports to Nigeria have been in steady decline and the outlook is poor given the collapse of the oil price: crude oil accounts for more than 80 per cent of foreign currency earnings.

Exports have also been hampered by continued unrest in the Delta region, where attacks on foreign oil companies, and Shell in particular, have at times virtually brought the industry to a halt.

British companies in the mission include Standard Chartered, SmithKline Beecham and Shell.

## KIO puts golf site up for sale

BY DOMINIC WALSH

THE Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), the state-controlled investment body, has put a "for sale" sign over East Sussex National, the 36-hole championship golf complex.

The 1,000-acre estate near Uckfield is being brought to the market by Knight Frank, the property agent, with a guide price of between £13 million and £15 million. This includes Horsted Place, a 20-room country house hotel once patronised by the Queen and Prince Philip.

Paul Bartrop, a partner at Knight Frank, said: "Some of the hotel groups and quoted golf operators might be interested or it might attract some of the world's super-rich for whom it would make a nice trophy." East Sussex National, which

has twice hosted the European Open, was originally developed by Brian Turner, a Canadian entrepreneur who dreamt of creating a British rival to Augusta National, the famous home of the US Masters.

But as development costs soared to more than £25 million, and hoped-for revenues failed to materialise, the KIO stepped in, ousted Mr Turner and brought in new management to turn it around.

Mr Bartrop said the KIO had decided to sell up because it was not a core investment. He said the estate had previously had planning permission for a 200-room hotel, adding: "The KIO felt it would be better to sell to someone who wants to develop the hotel."

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CHANGING TIMES



## A high price for Esperanto money

Euroscopics have already had their Christmas present — Oskar Lafontaine. But Christmas comes but once a year. After the festive season is over, the euro will be a business reality and the campaign by prominent business leaders to push Britain into the new currency will intensify. We could yet be hoodwinked into membership, only to realise what we have done when it is too late.

It is curious that so many business leaders with a mixed record of managing their own companies should now be diversifying into economic policy advice. The essence of their case seems to be that the euro is bound to succeed. If only they knew some history. (Some economists would come in handy, too.) If the euro were bound to be such a scorching success why did the Bundesbank have to be dragged in kicking and screaming? And why is it that so many top American economists think that it will prove to be a disaster?

Some business europhiles have argued that the greatest difficulty a business ever has to face is uncertainty. If we stayed outside, our companies would have to carry an insupportable burden. It is all right for Switzerland, I have heard it said, because it has untold strengths, but not

poor little Britain. What a strange view of the world some people have. Depending on how you measure it, "poor little Britain" has the fourth or fifth largest economy in the world. If it is viable for Switzerland to retain its own currency it is surely viable for Britain.

In any case, this absolute horror of uncertainty is odd. Personally, I would rather face an uncertain death than a certain one. An unstable exchange rate undoubtedly presents difficulties but they are as nothing compared with a rate which is wildly overvalued, as ours was when we joined the ERM. At least then we were able to escape.

In any case, uncertainty is endemic to business life. If we joined, we would exchange one sort of uncertainty for another. Admittedly, some instability is created in the exchange market itself and serves no purpose. But some is a reflection of the instability of underlying economic circumstances. Without exchange rate changes to act as shock absorbers, real economic instability may be greater.

It is not even clear that overall currency uncertainty would be reduced. We would gain complete stability against the other euro members, but risk substantially in-



ROGER BOOTLE

creased instability against the dollar bloc. This is particularly important for Britain because, compared with euro-land, we trade more outside the EU.

When it comes to currencies, otherwise sensible people seem to lose their marbles. Currencies are seen as matters of virility. The euro is set to assume the role of international reserve currency, alongside the dollar. Apparently, this is a state to be coveted. Strange then, that Britain spent such a large part of the postwar period trying to be rid of the reserve role of sterling, while Germany and Japan did all they could to prevent their currencies from taking it on.

It used to be argued that a prime reason for joining would be to take advantage of superior monetary management in the euro area. Those

dour but clever chaps in Frankfurt would do a much better job of managing the British economy than we could ourselves — even though they were not directly trying to. If you like, we had to be saved from our own incompetence. This was indeed a pretty good argument for Italy to want to join. But for Britain?

True, our relative inflation record has not been good over the last few decades, but go back further and we come out very well. France disguised its inflationary past by dropping a couple of noughts from the franc. At least Italy is upfront about it. The Germans were the best of the lot. They created so many noughts in their two hyperinflationary periods that, if they had kept them, the cost of a newspaper would fill the page with figures.

The financial markets are already adjusting to Britain's improved monetary management. Ten-year bond yields recently dipped below the US equivalent. True, they are still above the continental level. Perversely, the markets will even lend to the Italian Government at a lower rate than they charge the British.

But the premium over the euro-bloc has been narrowing. Moreover, it exists primarily because of the higher

level of British short rates. If, as I expect, base rates carry on falling all the way to 3 per cent, or even lower, while doubts about the management of the euro increase, then there is no reason why British long yields cannot fall below their euro equivalents.

In the debate about the single currency that will surely dominate the new year, I just wish that the euro-enthusiasts in business and elsewhere would address the real issues. There are some decent economic arguments for joining the euro. But they are not about seats at top tables, boats leaving the quayside, first and second divisions, or insupportable burdens.

They concern the saving of transactions costs, the possible reduction of uncertainty, the greater transparency of prices and the consequent restructuring of European business. But there are also some serious drawbacks, notably the loss of an independent monetary policy and of the exchange rate as shock absorber.

Most importantly, there are major political issues concerning the consequences of monetary union. Make no mistake. If EMU is to work, there will have to be a fully effective political union. Without it, the euro will turn into Esperanto money.

## Islanders hope for wealthier times from seaweed galore

**Fraser Nelson**  
on revival of a time-warp trade abandoned by a party to a failed mega-merger

When Monsanto agreed to merge with American Home Products last June, the \$60 billion merger of the two US pharmaceutical groups, was met with dismay on the Uist islands in the Hebrides.

For the last 250 years, the islanders had been making a living from collecting seaweed that was washed up in winter storms and was bought for its chemical properties.

Over the years, however, they had become marooned in a technological Brigadoon and in greater danger of being abandoned in favour of cheaper kelp from Chile. Many harvesters were in their sixties or seventies and had been wad-



Methods have changed little since this seaweed harvesting in the Uist islands in the 1960s, but new markets are now being found

ing into the freezing Atlantic for generations, still collecting kelp with scythes.

Weeks after the merger was announced, Kelco, a Monsanto subsidiary, said that it was pulling out — complaining about lack of facilities and the strong pound. When the AHP merger was scrapped, the contract did

not return and the 35 seaweed harvesters faced redundancy. Don McPhee, an islander who had been watching the situation deteriorate over the years, formed a company, Atlantic Resource Developments, in the hope of helping the local economy. He had long dreamt of selling edible seaweed to the Japanese for far more than the price Kelco was paying for it to thicken toothpaste and jam.

"The pay and conditions were Third World standards," he said. "A six-month season of seaweed harvesting could bring in less than £1,200. Kelco was paying £169 a tonne for seaweed that could retail at £5,000 a tonne. There had to be a better way to do it."

But how? The islanders had no financial muscle. The sixth Earl of Granville was officially overlord of the North Uist shores and been using his feudal powers to tax what little money the islanders brought in — but he was unable to act as business ambassador for the 35 crofters facing redundancy.

Their plight, picked up in *The Times* in July, attracted the attention of Brian Wilson, then Minister of State at the Scottish Office responsible for industry and now at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr McPhee said: "After the *Times* article quite a lot of atten-

tion started to be paid. Brian Wilson has very, very close links with the Western Isles, and started saying we must take some self-determination here and not rely on the multinationals. He said we have a resource that is fairly unique, and said we have to get our act together."

Mandarin duly sprang into action. The Highlands and Islands Enterprise Council commissioned a £37,000 survey to see whether the island's seaweed industry could be resurrected. The report concluded that there were only three customers for the islanders' seaweed and that that of making millions of pounds was little more than a pipe dream.

Mr McPhee was furious. "The report could have been written by an eight-year-old," he says. "I could find between 150 and 180 buyers through the Internet. The problem with seaweed is not selling it, it's harvesting it."

He began to make his own calls. The first was to EFTF, a Norwegian company that buys wet kelp for its alginate properties. Normally, it would not look as far as Uist, but it had widened its radius of business and was prepared to stretch 230 miles. After taking

over the harvesting rights on South Uist, Mr McPhee struck his first contract last week to supply 15,000 kilos to the Norwegians at £2,500 a tonne — 15 times what was being earned under the Monsanto contracts.

The cash will pay for a team of seaweed harvesters paid on a fixed monthly basis — scrapping the old system by which they were given a lump sum in May.

Mr McPhee intends to capitalise on the absence of any rivals in the islands to invest in milling and drying plants capable of producing the refined seaweed that luxury markets demand. He is also close to selling the type of seaweed eaten by sea urchins, which are being farmed elsewhere in Scotland as a luxury food in the Middle East.

"The islands are ringed in the kind of edibles seaweed that sells for way over £2,500 a tonne," he says. "We can plough the money from the Norwegian contract back into building all the facilities we need."

If he succeeds, Atlantic Resource Developments could be the saviour of the industry. If it fails, islanders may have to abandon their dream of rejuvenating the Hebrides through seaweed galore.

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### CHANGE ON WEEK

**THE POUND**

US Dollar

1.6822 (+0.0180)

German Mark

2.719 (-0.0056)

Exchange Index

100.4 (+0.1)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

**FT 30 share**

3361.4 (-25.8)

**FTSE 100**

5541.7 (-37.0)

**New York Dow Jones**

8821.76 (-194.38)

**Tokyo Nikkei Avg**

14405.64 (-234.33)

### Answers from page 32

#### HADADA

(a) A large brown-green ibis, *Haedastria bagedash*. Onomatopoeic from the bird's raucous call. "Hadada" ibises rise with the horrible complaining cry from which they get their title.

#### MOTOSCAFO

(a) In Italy, as motor-boat. Especially such a boat used as a public conveyance on the Venetian canals. Ernest Hemingway, *Across the River*, 1950: "I will get into the motoscafo and we will not ever see one another again."

#### KANGRI

(c) A small wicker-covered clay-lined pot filled with glowing charcoal, carried especially by Kashmiris next to the skin to warm the air beneath the clothing. "Among the Indians it has been shown that cancer of the skin is associated with the use of kangri heaters applied to the abdomen."

#### MODISTAE

(c) The collective name given to a number of late medieval grammarians, who developed and expounded a system of Latin grammar wherein Priscian's word classes and categories were integrated into the framework of scholastic philosophy. "Before the modistae, grammar had not been viewed as a separate discipline, but had been considered in conjunction with other studies or skills (such as criticism, preservation of valued texts, foreign-language learning)."

#### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qxg4 and if 1... Rxd2+ 2. Kg2 Rxd2+ 3. Kh3 and mate on h6 is unstoppable.

### TELEVISION CHOICE

## The bar mitzvah singer

**Sound Stories: The Klezmer King**

BBC2, 7.30pm

The last in a diverting series about music-making features Moshe Tarnin, a Jewish singer who plies his trade on the wedding and bar mitzvah circuit. From a family of rabbis, he was born in Tehran, brought up in an orphanage in Israel after the early death of his father and arrived in Britain 20 years ago speaking not a word of English. An early job was as a waiter at Jewish weddings. From that came the idea of singing at them. His varied background means that he has mastered most of the many sub-cultures of Judaism and can adapt his repertoire accordingly. The film follows him through a particularly challenging event, the arranged marriage in North London of Bracha, a 19-year-old Yemeni woman. Most of the guests are ultra-Orthodox but he also has to please the traditional Yemenite family.

**Planet Usinow**

Channel 4, 8.00pm

Two documentaries, one after the other, about post-apartheid South Africa, may seem like a case of crass scheduling but apart from the political satirist Pier Dick Uys, there is little overlap. Sir Peter Ustinov's view, delivered in the last of his travels in the footsteps of Mark Twain, is benign and optimistic. Although he finds the obstinate Afrikaner spirit still alive, and roasts one of its deepest adherents in the 93-year-old widow of the assassinated President Verwoerd, Ustinov insists on accentuating the positive. Rubbing shoulders with the great and the good of the new regime, from Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Tutu downwards, he finds an emphasis on opportunities rather than obstacles and a marked determination among the victims of apartheid not to feel bitter and vengeful.

**Birds of a Feather**

BBC1, 8.30pm

The saga of the Essex "corbitts" reaches its 100th episode and with the sitcom in such a depressed state we must be grateful for the staying power of a show which first hit the screens back in October 1989. Indeed, the format is so durable that Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, who created it, usually leave the scripts to others these days.



A father and son express their views on the new South Africa in *White Lives* (Ch 4, 9pm)

Not that it is usually possible to tell the difference, a tribute to the even standard of the writing. Cary Lawson and John Phelps penned episode 100 which sees the wedding of Gary, son of Linda Robinson's "Trocy", to the socially superior Kimberley, whose snobby mother goads Sharon (Pauline Quirke) into being even more coarse than usual. In the subplot, Dorien (gloriously played, as ever, by Lesley Joseph) has gone all moody and for once it has nothing to do with a man.

**White Lives**

Channel 4, 9.00pm

For a more disenchanted look at Mandela's South Africa here is part two of the documentary by Paul Watson, which trains its camera on the minority white community. The most sympathetic thing you can say about the whites on this evidence is that many live in fear of the black majority and in some cases with reason. Mrs Margaret Sharpe may call herself a yuppie and live in a posh house but it is not good to hear that she was held at gunpoint by three black men demanding her car. It is less easy to warm to Stefan Schutte, who thought far too young to remember the Nazi regime, declares his love for Hitler and Hitler "because they fought for the same white nation that we do". Meanwhile, Deborah Potts continues to gather evidence of the apartheid regime's complicity in the death of President Machel of Mozambique. Peter Waymark

### RADIO CHOICE

**The Whistle Blower**

Radio 5 Live, 7.30pm

When I first attended football matches as an infant, about the worst insult that was hurled at the referee related to the location of the nearest toilet. Now, referees are routinely pushed, shouted at and, perhaps most hideous of all, subjected to slow-motion ridicule on television. This programme, a welcome contrast from listening to players and managers abuse referees, gives the man in black's side of the story, in particular: why does he do it? We hear from Mike Reed, who booked 13 players in a Chelsea-Leeds game this year, and Gerald Ashby, who recently retired from the fray. The overwhelming impression is of men who love the game but who, as part-timers, seem increasingly anachronistic.

**RADIO 1 (BBC)**

8.30am A Scoop Breakfast 8.30 Simon Mayo's Office Party 12.00 News 12.05 News 12.10 News 12.15 News 12.20 News 12.25 News 12.30 News 12.35 News 12.40 News 12.45 News 12.50 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.05 News 1.10 News 1.15 News 1.20 News 1.25 News 1.30 News 1.35 News 1.40 News 1.45 News 1.50 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.05 News 2.10 News 2.15 News 2.20 News 2.25 News 2.30 News 2.35 News 2.40 News 2.45 News 2.50 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.05 News 3.10 News 3.15 News 3.20 News 3.25 News 3.30 News 3.35 News 3.40 News 3.45 News 3.50 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.05 News 4.10 News 4.15 News 4.20 News 4.25 News 4.30 News 4.35 News 4.40 News 4.45 News 4.50 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.05 News 5.10 News 5.15 News 5.20 News 5.25 News 5.30 News 5.35 News 5.40 News 5.45 News 5.50 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.05 News 6.10 News 6.15 News 6.20 News 6.25 News 6.30 News 6.35 News 6.40 News 6.45 News 6.50 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.05 News 7.10 News 7.15 News 7.20 News 7.25 News 7.30 News 7.35 News 7.40 News 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# Rights and wrongs, ancient and modern

You can't fault the Spanish authorities for timing. To request the extradition of General Pinochet to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights is a masterstroke. For it from the moment the legal and diplomatic problems raised by the request, but one of the less edifying aspects of the debate has been the attempts by certain politicians to rubbish the reputation of Amnesty International.

The organisation is, of course, misjudged occasionally. I expect it sometimes upsets delicate international relationships and interferes with trade. But since it is trying to stop people being tortured, murdered, raped and sometimes actually succeeds, it seems churlish to work up a lather of indignation about its imperfections.

BBC2 gave it the perfect opportunity to say all this for itself in Amnesty (BBC2, Saturday), a focal point for the channel's Human Rights Week. We followed the work of Amnesty researchers in post-Pol Pot Cambodia, where demonstrators opposed to the ruling party were killed and maimed in a grenade attack. We visited a Yemeni lawyer threatened with death for defending a man convicted of drinking a beer, and we followed the Secretary-General Pierre Sané and his team as they lobbied the international conference on human rights in Rome earlier in the year.

Amnesty is currently engaged in a campaign to highlight human rights abuses in the United States, which seems a somewhat quixotic undertaking, but you never know. You could say, with some justification, that this programme was a naive and uncritical advertisement for a bunch of meddling do-gooders. But good luck to them.

Meanwhile, Philippa Gregory was making her own contribution to Human Rights Week in *Travels With Pevsner* (BBC2, Saturday). I have to admit that I have hardly ever dipped into Pevsner's guides, though there was a fair selection in the house when I was a child. This was because, as the series has often demonstrated, they were even dumber than those early Michelin green guides. "The finely decorated Baroque wastepaper basket behind the vestry is by Isaac Throckmorthby and dates from approximately June 3, 1732," that sort of thing.

So the challenge for presenters is to be as unlike the scholarly old duffer as possible, and the series should properly be called *Travels With Not Pevsner*. *Honest*. A presenter can, for example, infect the programme with an unpleasant condition known to medical science as "the

Measles". This affliction, causing moments of dry, surreal humour to sprout like angry pustules over the programme, provoking an intense urge to scratch the television screen, is named for the Times restaurant critic, Jonathan Meades, who discovered it.

Gregory, by contrast, used the programme as an opportunity to restate all the points about Bristol and the slave trade which she had

## REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

previously illustrated in her novel *A Respectable Trade* and its subsequent television adaptation. She even managed to work the title into the commentary.

The tour became a perfect example of a didacticism that afflicts modern men and women of good will when confronted with the nation's heritage. When you look into the matter, almost every building of any size or grandeur anywhere turns out to be a monument to some form of vanity, oppression, exploitation, bullying or outright thievery in the past.

So we wispy-waspy liberals wander through the National Trust properties of the realm, tut-tutting as we read in the guide that Sir Hector Barmacle built his exquisite moated manor after he had first razed a village inhabited by elderly crippled serfs.

This is more or less what Gregory did. She was raised in the charming Bristol suburb of Clifton

(built on slave money), and attended a fine school, founded by a philanthropic slave trader called Edward Colston. (This description, as she pointed out, could be considered self-contradictory.) Virtually the whole of Somerset, it seems, was built on the profits of human misery, and we probably shouldn't go there.

As a general rule, Gregory's interest in places seemed to be in direct proportion to their absurdity — such as the black Gothic castle built of slag from smelting ovens and parked next to a big, Salsbury-style, or the moral turpitude of the original owners. So we got a good deal on William Beckford's Bath, because he was a disgraced pederast who built hideous follies and whose remains now lie in a fetching pink sarcophagus. Whereas the glorious Montacute House got cursory notice, except for a humorous plaster frieze. The

programme ended up with the same odd combination of slightly worthy didacticism and ribald entertainment that characterised *A Respectable Trade*, a great deal more enlightening and amusing than reading Pevsner.

I suspect that Waldemar Januszczak is going down with the Measles. As the Not Pevsners have discovered, turning great culture into great telly is no easy trick. Januszczak's solution in his mini-series, *The Truth About Art* (Channel 4, Sunday), is to film himself in amusing situations and to juxtapose the works of art with a quirky selection of background music.

I found myself resolutely unconvinced by the links between the religious art of many cultures and the work of the contemporary artists he visited, but the rest of it really was fascinating, and made you wonder why cultures that produce such beauty are so inclined to rip out each other's toe-nails.

## BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (20443)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (23733)
- 9.00am Killy (1) (542438)
- 9.40am Style Challenge (1) (18080)
- 10.05am City Hospital (1) (766088)
- 10.55am News; Regional News; Weather (1) (168358)
- 11.00am Good Living with Jane Asher (1) (460733)
- 11.25am Car's Cook, Won't Cook (1) (460162)
- 11.55am News; Regional News; Weather (1) (152329)
- 12.00pm Piers the Book (1) (205530)
- 12.25pm Going for a Song (1) (291337)
- 12.50pm The Weather Show (1) (730655)
- 1.00pm One O'Clock News; Weather (1) (168358)
- 1.30pm Regional News; Weather (1) (168358)
- 1.40pm Neighbours: The Kennedys search for Libby (1) (167282)
- 2.05pm Inside A Criminal: the city's power, and how it affects the darkness may be hiding (1) (252024)
- 2.55pm Barrow's Dog: A brave puppy has a leg removed (466308)
- 3.25pm Children's BBC: Play (1) (162337)
- 3.45pm Enchanted Lands: The Magic of the Faraway Tree (1) (162337)
- 4.05pm The Big Red Boat (1) (162337)
- 4.35pm The Big Red Boat (1) (162337)
- 5.10pm The Big Red Boat (1) (162337)
- 5.35pm Neighbours: The Kennedys search for Libby (1) (167282)
- 6.00pm Six O'Clock News; Weather (1) (168358)
- 6.30pm Regional News; Weather (1) (168358)
- 7.00pm This is Your Life: Michael Aspel surprises unsuspecting guest with the big red boat (1) (2629)
- 7.30pm Here and Now: Juliet Morris presents a report on an interactive CD-ROM designed to help parents of juveniles learn to bring up their unruly offspring (1) (801)
- 8.00pm EastEnders: George and Glenn visit the blood test results (1) (1671)
- 8.30pm Birds of a Feather: Sharon and Terry's "silly round" to ensure that Glenn's wedding day runs without a hitch (1) (1671)
- 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (1) (168358)
- 9.30pm Harry Enfield's Television Programme: Madcap comedy with Harry Enfield, Kathy Burke and Paul Whitehouse (1) (1) (23622)
- 10.00pm Panorama: Juliet Morris investigates the rise in suicides among young men, asking why apparently normal people decide to take their own lives (1) (1671)
- 10.40pm They Think It's All Over: The comedy sports quiz (1) (1) (1671)
- 11.15pm Escape from Terror: The Teresa Stanger Story (1) (1671)
- 11.40pm The Big Red Boat (1) (1671)
- 12.00pm The Big Red Boat (1) (1671)
- 1.05pm Weather (1) (168358)
- 1.10pm BBC News 24 (4224088)

**VIDEO Plus+** and **VIDEO Plus+** codes  
The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ programming. Just enter the VIDEO Plus+ code for the relevant programme on your video recorder for easy finding.  
For more details call VIDEO Plus+ on 0845 750710.  
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VIDEO Plus+ is a registered trademark of Video Plus+ Ltd.

## For further listings see Saturday's Vision

- SKY 1**  
7.00am The Simpsons (1) (1671)  
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## COMPANIES 38

Asda checks out with little change

# BUSINESS

ESPERANTO 42

Roger Bootle on the euro's high price



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY DECEMBER 14 1998

## GEC to admit discussions after plans leaked

By CHRIS AYRES

GEC, the British defence group, will today make a formal Stock Exchange announcement admitting "intense discussions" with a number of big players in the global defence industry after leaked details of plans that could blow apart the £14 billion merger of British Aerospace (BAe) and DaimlerChrysler Aerospace (Dasa).

The company faced embarrassing leaks over the weekend — thought to have come from the BAe camp — suggesting that it had offered BAe an alternative deal to its merger with Dasa. Some reports suggested that GEC had proposed a full merger, while others said GEC had offered to merge its Marconi Electronics division, worth about £8 billion, into BAe. In re-

turn, GEC would ask for a 50 per cent stake in the enlarged business. If either of these offers materialised it could explode BAe's long-awaited merger with Dasa, which was expected to be completed this week. Alternatively, BAe could rearrange its merger with Dasa to include GEC. It is thought that the heads of BAe and GEC — Sir Richard Evans and Lord Simpson of Dun-

keld respectively — have discussed a deal where Marconi Electronics would be added to the combined businesses of BAe and Dasa in a second stage to their merger. The strategy behind all the proposed deals is to create a consolidated European aerospace and defence company to take on giant US groups such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon. It is thought

that BAe and Dasa have considered including Aerospaciale, the French defence group that will soon be privatised, into their original deal. BAe yesterday refused to comment on the talks, saying only: "We are involved in discussions with a number of major industry participants and some of those discussions are at an advanced stage, but as yet there is no definite agreement."

GEC will put out a statement today saying: "GEC notes the recent press speculation concerning the continuing consolidation of the global defence industry. The group confirms that it has been in intense discussions for several months with a number of major participants in the global defence industry. GEC expects to make a decision on its future strategic course soon. This situation remains,

with a number of options being actively considered. In the light of press speculation... GEC wishes to make it clear that its decision will be based on industrial logic, with two prime considerations: the ability of any industrial combination to produce higher levels of shareholder value on a sustainable basis and for GEC shareholders to be able to participate fairly in the value created."

## Euro fears spark early end to trade

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

FUND MANAGERS and institutional investors are so concerned about setting trades before the advent of the euro in the new year and the expected chaos that they intend to cease trading by the end of this week.

Most do not intend to buy or sell UK or European bonds or equities after Friday unless profit warnings or a mega-merger make it essential.

In addition, private client stockbrokers are advising small investors to keep clear of the market until the new year to avoid rogue pricing. They predict that the new electronic trading system, which will replace the thin trading by magnifying spreads, and private investors who are buying funds for personal equity funds could be caught out by erratic closing prices.

The result will be a virtual traders' holiday for the last half of this month — except for the unlikely estimated 25,000 City workers who will have to come in over the various bank holidays to prepare for the euro.

Institutions tend to close down derivative positions and reduce trades in the weeks leading up to Christmas in order to settle the books before

the end of the year. The market has traditionally staged a rally in the final weeks of the year, although some fund managers believe the FTSE is now unlikely to rise any further than it did last month.

The issue of closing prices remains particularly sensitive for the Stock Exchange, as they are used by investment managers to calculate fund performance.

The launch of the euro on January 1 means it is even more important this year for them to ensure trades have gone through correctly by December 31.

By January 4 many European bonds and equities will be quoted in euros, which will make it more difficult to sort out a failed trade done, for example, in marks.

Fund managers are also reluctant to trade during times when volumes are thin because the market is less liquid and more prone to volatility.

Rory Powe, head of European investment at Invesco, said: "It is a vicious circle. If you trade on December 24 it will not be settled until January 4, which means that you would buy in francs or marks and settle in euros."

"Although investment houses have been testing their euro settlement systems, they are not all confident that everything will go smoothly."

"No one likes trading when volumes are thin because those conditions create prices which are not very favourable."

Fund managers also believe that nervousness after the FTSE's fall in July, coupled with thin trading, mean that the market is likely to be volatile in the last few weeks of the year.

Mr Powe said: "Good or bad news of an economic, political or corporate nature will result in more short-term volatility than usual."

Jeremy Batstone, head of research at NatWest Stockbrokers, is one of the brokers recommending private investors exercise caution over the next three weeks. He said: "Euro trading is uncharted territory and no one wants to place bets on the market at an uncertain time when it could be highly volatile." He believes the FTSE 100 index will end the year at between 5,200 and 5,500.

Jane Coffey, head of European Equities at CGU, said that, although the City would become increasingly reluctant to trade in the days ahead, it would not stop managers reacting to a profit warning.



Good will: Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank, threw its doors in London open yesterday to 400 senior citizens, including Chelsea pensioners, to make free Christmas phone calls

## Shell to write off up to \$5bn assets

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

SHELL is expected to announce huge asset write-downs today that could push the company close to declaring a loss for the financial year, along with further job losses.

The Anglo-Dutch oil group will brief the City this afternoon about its financial targets and business plans, and analysts are expecting Shell to write off between \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) and \$5 billion of overvalued oil and chemical assets.

Further plans to cut back staff levels are likely, even after the 6,000 job cuts announced in recent months, and the industry is awash with talk of Shell disposals. Candidates are thought to include the US onshore exploration portfolio, the Canadian gas interests and parts of the chemicals business.

Shell's poor third-quarter performance shocked the market and led to a public breast-beating by Mark Moody-Stuart, chairman of Shell's committee of managing directors. Last week, the company took tentative steps towards changing the consensus management-style of the century-old company, appointing chief executives to run each of its four core businesses.

Mr Moody-Stuart is believed to have given ultimatum to senior management at a conference last week, telling them that poor performing businesses would be fixed or would leave the group.

Fergus Macleod, oil analyst at BT Alex Brown, is forecasting up to \$5 billion in asset write-downs and points out that Shell's main constraint may be the bottom line on its 1998 accounts. "The question is: are they prepared to report a loss? BP did that in

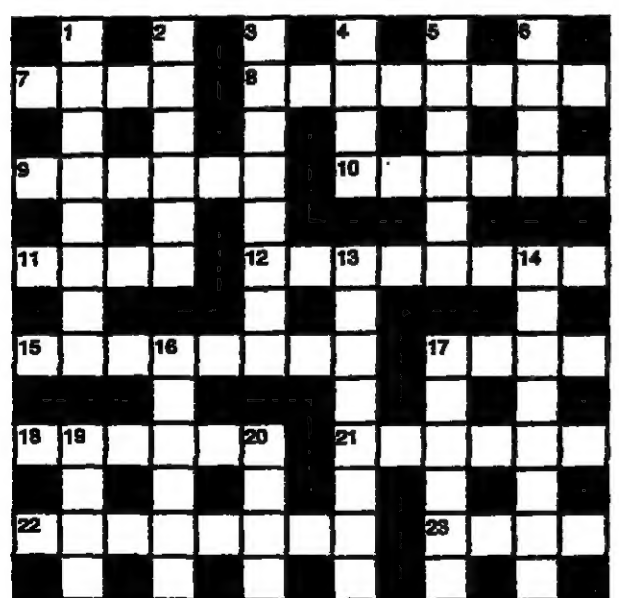
1992." However, BP was then in worse shape, suffering from a huge debt burden, said Mr Macleod. Shell's problem seems to be weak and diminishing returns from its vast asset portfolio. Like its peers, it is suffering from the sub-\$10 per barrel oil price but analysts believe it has been complacent, recycling cash-flow from past successes into ill-conceived projects.

## Award for Times picture



This candid shot of Sir Robin Biggam, the Independent Television Commission chairman, announcing the decision to axe News at Ten has won Gill Allen, a Times staffer, photograph of the year in the Bell Pottinger Financial Photo Competition

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1588

## ACROSS

- 7 Horsey, accurate (4)  
8 Come close to (8)  
9 Profit (6)  
10 Symbol, badge (6)  
11 Worthless, deplorable (4)  
12 Construct anew (2-6)  
13 Break (regulation) (8)  
17 Avoid (question, bounce) (4)  
18 Treeless permafrost zone (6)  
21 With eagerness (6)  
22 A brew (8)  
23 Stake; position (field) (4)

## DOWN

- 1 One from Ercan (8)  
2 Rubbish; decline (6)  
3 Senior bureaucratic type of 17 (8)  
4 Dorned recess in church (4)  
5 Much more; a lookalike (6)  
6 Dull pain (4)  
13 Halting; verifying (8)  
14 Tricky (problem); easily made to laugh (8)  
16 Element 88, discovered by Curie (6)  
17 A French Channel port (6)  
19 Longer forearm bone (4)  
20 Related, similar (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 1587

- ACROSS: 1 Scot-free 5 Fool 8 Accuracy 9 Veer 11 Baron 12 Defiled 13 Elijah 15 Packet 18 Message 19 Durum 21 Grey 22 Caligula 23 Yutu 24 Helsinki  
DOWN: 1 Shamble 2 Oscar 3 Far and away 4 Escudo 6 Obelisk 7 Lurid 10 Hit and miss 14 Inspector 16 Tinpani 17 Deface 18 Might 20 Rouen

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## Chandler to chair GRE

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SIR COLIN CHANDLER, chairman of Vickers, the defence and engineering group, is to be installed as chairman of Guardian Royal Exchange (GRE) in April.

Sir Colin is already a non-executive director of GRE and will succeed Lord Hambro as its non-executive chairman at the composite insurer's annual general meeting in the spring.

GRE has been the subject of bid rumour in recent weeks after effectively putting itself up for sale, although analysts say that the group would be unlikely to fetch more than \$4 billion if it fell to a single bidder.

AXA, the French insurer that owns Sun Life, has already approached GRE with an informal offer conditional on the GRE board being restructured, but has not yet tabled a formal bid.

Royal & Sun Alliance, Allianz, the German insurance group, Independent Insurance and AIG, of the US, have expressed initial interest

in GRE, but have not yet made bids.

Analysts believe that even if GRE is bought, it will not survive in its present form. Although GRE has already decided on the succession to its chairmanship, the composition of its board may have changed radically by April if all or part of the group is sold.



Chandler: new role in April

## Institutions may run pensions

By CHRIS AYRES AND ANNE ASHWORTH

LEADING financial institutions are likely to be allowed to run "stakeholder" pension schemes in partnership with trade unions, local authorities and trade associations, under plans to be revealed in a Green Paper tomorrow.

Under stakeholder plans — intended to protect those in casual or temporary employment — workers will be encouraged to pay an extra 4 per cent of their gross income into second-tier pension schemes. At present, workers pay 4.6 per cent of their income into Serps, the state earnings-related pensions scheme.

These schemes will initially be run by independent trustees, but eventually financial institutions and organisations whose members may not have access to good pension schemes will be allowed to administer stakeholder funds.

The move to allow pension firms to take part in stakeholder schemes comes after talks between the industry and the Department of Social Security.

## Soros hints at sterling attack

By FRASER NELSON

GEORGE SOROS, the financier who made £600 million from speculating against sterling in 1992, yesterday said he is ready to try again if Britain remains outside European economic and monetary union.

Mr Soros forecast that sterling is likely to fluctuate wildly against the dollar once the currencies of the 11 countries in EMU are fixed in three weeks' time. If there is a lot of movement within the dollar and the

euro, he said, the fluctuations could be magnified in sterling. "It will be exposed to the likes of me taking perhaps speculative swings at it," he said.

Mr Soros is seen as having forced sterling out of the EU's exchange-rate mechanism in 1992, defeating the Bank of England's £12 billion backing of it against the mark, but he is said to have lost bets against sterling this year. He told MPs last week that the world economy is on the verge of a crisis. Stephen Byers, Chief Secre-

tary to the Treasury, yesterday rejected Mr Soros's remarks. He said: "George Soros himself concedes that he's made quite a few blunders... I think he's wrong, and the evidence he gave [to MPs] wasn't as clear as that."

"What he did say was that, clearly, once we get the single currency established in the new year there may be speculation, not just affecting the pound, but across the world, and I think we need to look very carefully at that."

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